

Wednesday April 3 1996

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

46,517

Jack Klaff's diary of a conception

In vitro vivo



G2 with European weather

Isaac Mizrahi reveals all

New York unzipped

Style G2 pages 8/9

Society

Real World Coalition agenda for a better future

G2 pages 10/11

Woolwich chief resigns over expenses 'discrepancies'



Peter Robinson

Margaret Hughes, Patrick Donovan and Ian King

THE Chief Executive of the Woolwich Building Society has left the company after the discovery of tens of thousands of pounds worth of "discrepancies" on his expense account, it emerged last night.

have discovered items of personal expenditure claimed as business expenses. Mr Robinson, who denounced as "carpetbaggers" people who attempt to make quick profits by investing in societies in expectation of a floatation, was found by the accountants to have charged items to the society.

denying bills to the society. The departure of the Chief Executive, who lives in Westerham in Kent, comes as a huge embarrassment to the society because he was heading its plans for a £3 billion stock market floatation.

float in August next year in a move which will give more than 3.5 million investors a one-off handout worth £200 apiece. The Woolwich said that the Building Societies Commission and Bank of England were kept fully informed of the developments.

Woolwich's City adviser, said the alleged discrepancies had emerged in an internal audit late last week while Mr Robinson was on holiday. They said the decision that Mr Robinson would have to go was only made late yesterday afternoon.

of the Lords Taverners, the fund-raising body that organises cricket-based events, and president of the Kent Cricket League. Mr Robinson, a fitness fanatic who regularly used the staff gym at the Woolwich's head office, was educated at grammar school at nearby Erith, and on leaving, took a first job with Castrol, which enabled him to concentrate on playing cricket.

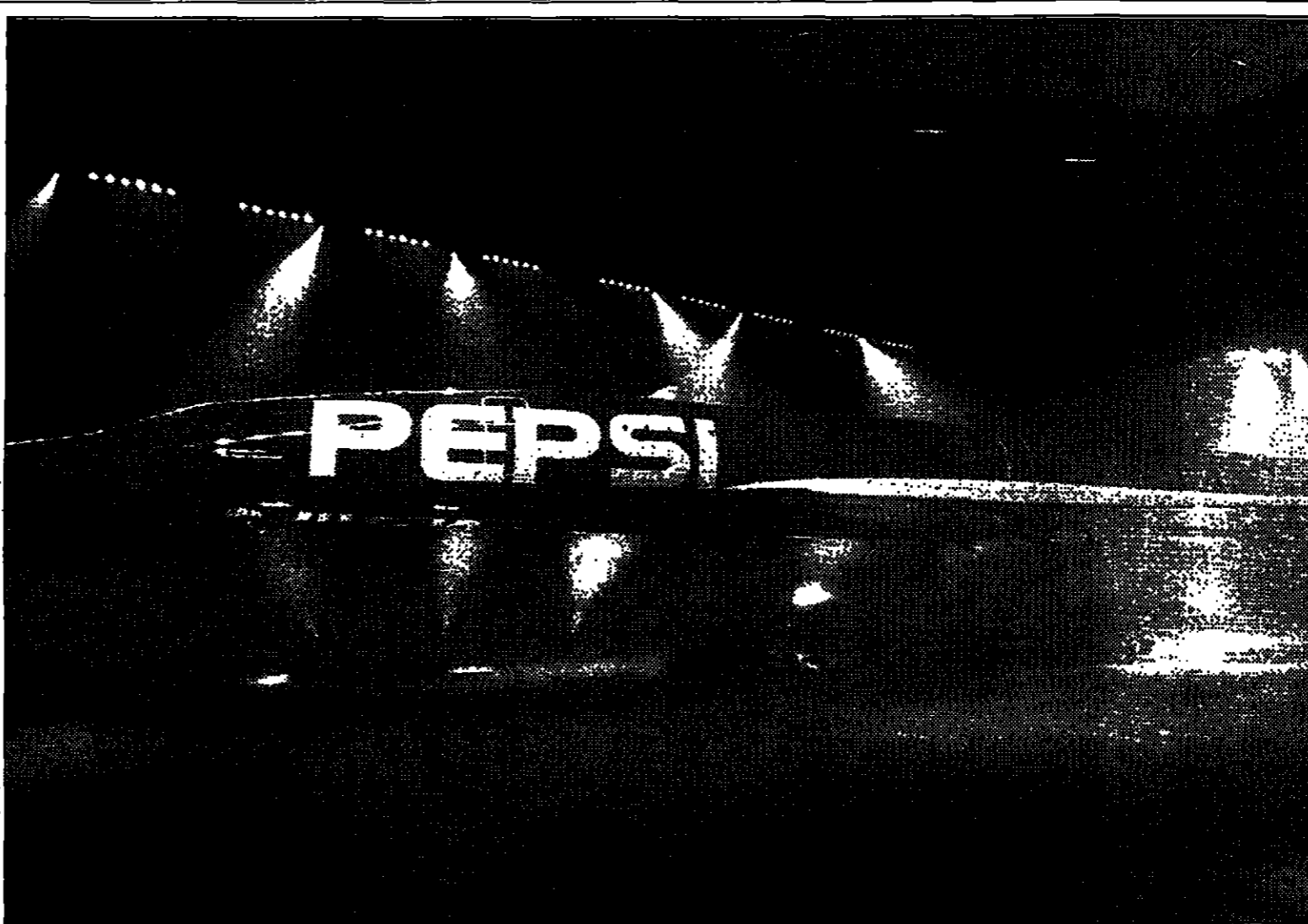
replaced by John Stewart, operations director at the Woolwich. In a recent interview with a newspaper he said: "Some people have said this [stock market] conversion is an ego trip for me. "People might say I've got a big ego but I've got two brothers who are multi-millionaires and my sister in Canada is a successful dress designer." He famously dismissed complaints from small investors, refused a windfall share, by saying: "I have no concern about not enfranchising carpetbaggers."

Major seals Euro deal

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major last night pulled the Conservative Party back from a potentially fatal split over the proposed single currency referendum when he secured an understanding with his recalcitrant Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that will allow the Cabinet to settle the controversy this morning.

What may prove crucial to the deal is that the formal status of a referendum will be as a manifesto pledge, whenever the election is called. It is a formula urged on Mr Major by the rightwing 92 Group last night. It would be invoked only if Britain decides to join an emerging Euro-currency during the 1997-2002 parliament.



An Air France Concorde painted blue at Gatwick airport yesterday as part of Pepsi Cola's £330 million Project Blue campaign

Purple prose in cola war

Roger Cowe and Edward Pilkington

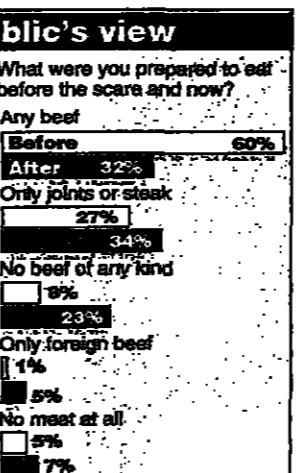
THE stars were on eloquent form. "This is really hip, and it's great to be a part of the family," said supermodel Claudia Schiffer, while Andre Agassi, fresh from a Miami tennis tournament, hailed his relationship with the promoters as "one of the greatest I've established in my life".

Public suspects beef cover-up

Poll shows few believe Government

BSE crisis - The public's view

- The Govt knew there was a risk and tried to hide it 73%
• The Government has just discovered the risk and took prompt action 17%
• The EU was right to ban imports of British beef 41%
• The EU is over-reacting and being unfair 55%



of last week's ban on exports. As the talks dragged towards a third day, a weary Philippe Vasseur, France's agriculture minister, sighed: "We are not going to leave until we have finished."

Inside

Britain Police are investigating four deaths at a hospital's intensive care unit, where a ward sister has been sacked.

World News Throughout Rwanda, survivors of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis are being hunted down and murdered.

Finance Investment in new cars and factories drove Rover into the red, German parent company BMW announced.

Sport Frank Bruno has indicated that a return fight with Lennox Lewis is the one thing that might make him fight on.

Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
G2
Crossword 15; Weather 16
Radio 15; TV 16

Advertisement for Charles Wells 4.8% A.B.V. 100% T.L.C. BOMBARDIER PREMIUM BITTER. Brewed by the Charles Wells Family, Brewery, Bedfordshire. Est. 1876.

Sketch

Rush of memory on rising risks



Simon Hoggart

IN Easter 1916, a group of armed poets, writers and various nutcases led by a young Dubliner...

Not so our own Government, which had 80 years to remember and still left the Easter Rising slip its mind...

important bill being rushed through in a day because, a year from now, it might return to haunt you in an election sound-bite.

So they started with a debate on the guillotine (we were to spend an hour longer debating how long the debate should last than on the debate of the committee stage of the bill itself).

Let me give you a flavour of the guillotine motion, Clause 2, sub-clause (2), is probably the snappiest bit: "For the purpose of bringing to a conclusion any proceedings which have been brought to a conclusion, the Chairman or Speaker shall forthwith put the following Questions (but no others) — (a) any Question proposed from the Chair..."

After this bravura defence of ancient freedoms against a Government which can't even consult a Letis diary list of World National Days, did the Labour front bench boldly join Mr Beith in the lobbies? Don't be silly.

Backbenchers defy leadership over stop-and-search powers being rushed through Parliament

Labour MPs rebel on IRA bill

THIRTY-one Labour backbenchers staged a series of rebellions last night in protest at the Government's stop and search anti-terrorist legislation being rushed through the Commons with the support of the Labour front bench.

They began by opposing the imposition of a Government guillotine — designed to give the police extra powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act before Easter.

The guillotine was passed by 256 votes to 44 with the Liberal Democrats, led by Alan Beith, joining the Labour dissidents.

Home Secretary Michael Howard, eager to maintain bipartisan support, refused to make political capital out of the Labour rebellion.

The bill gives police powers to stop and search pedestrians without reasonable suspicion for up to 28 days in designated areas.

Mr Straw insisted the bill, suddenly published by Mr Howard on Monday, represented "no gratuitous erosion of the liberty of the subject" and was "proportionate to the threat".

But he added that the whole package should be withdrawn if peace is secured in Northern Ireland.

Kevin McNamara, the former shadow northern Ireland secretary, was one of the leading Labour rebels saying: "It is quite outrageous that here we have very serious incursions into people's normal civil liberties and we're only going to have two hours to discuss them."

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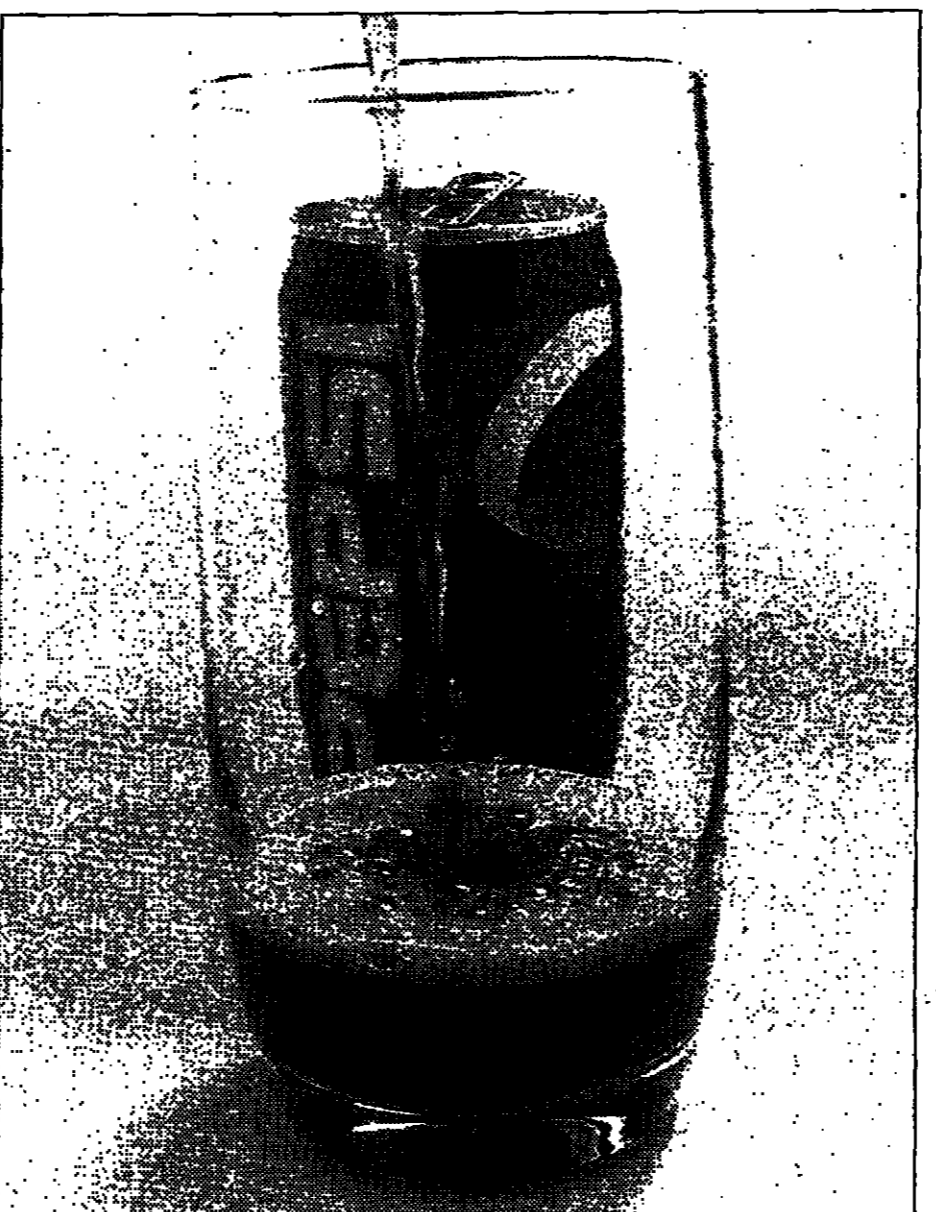
But he added that the whole package should be withdrawn if peace is secured in Northern Ireland.

Mr Howard refused to give details of any threats the IRA this Easter, and the Home Office played down suggestions that the IRA might strike on the 80th anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Leader comment and Letters, page 8; Martin Kettle's Commentary, page 9

Purple prose in phoney cola war

continued from page 1 the colour's value, as part of "Project Blue", its \$500 million (\$330 million) campaign to relaunch itself against its arch rival, the unconquered red Coca-Cola.



New can, same drink, as Pepsi launches a new round in the cola wars

One of his US bosses, senior vice president John Swanhaus, was less restrained. He said Pepsi's new look "strokes a new claim to the next millennium".

The company's UK managing director, Simon Calver, described the occasion as "one of the most significant moments in the history of Pepsi", and promised the move would "fundamentally alter the international soft drink atmosphere".

New Labour will be dismayed to hear that Pepsi's research among young people apparently discovered that they believe the future is blue, not red.

Mr Swanhaus. As a result, the familiar red, white and blue cans disappeared from store shelves in Britain and 19 other countries on Monday night.

Review

City in mourning, yeah, yeah, yeah

Robert Clark

LIVE from the Vinyl Junkyard Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool. NO MATTER how nauseated the good people of Liverpool must be by endless Beatles pilgrimages and, worse, by the self-conscious Scousey of performance poets like Adrian Henri and Roger McGough, the city still thrives on an undeniable taproom culture of kitsch pop wit.

fascinating elements of this exhibition is a frieze of framed wax LP covers. I spotted such archaeological gems of raffiness as Johnny's Little Yo-Yo (subtitled Spicy Patty Songs), The Best Of The Singing Postman and Russ Conway's Songs to Sing In The Bath.

The one I most fancied nicking, however, was the cover of Down to Earth, showing the adorable Eartha Kitt reclining in sex kitten mode on a tiger skin rug.

As for the art, some of it's good, but not as good, of course, as the material that inspired it.

John Campbell (from the group The Immaterial) and Henry Priestman (ex The Christians) present Baby '96, a disco installation including a tape loop spinning through the word Baby edited from 96 pop songs.

An artist's statement explains "Why Baby? Because it's the ever popular sugar pink, vanilla glue that is so much the tool of the songwriter's trade."

Cola giants battle to slake a global thirst

Roger Cowe

THE world is steadily consuming more fizzy drinks, although most countries are well behind Mexico and the USA. Cola favours lead the charge, but in Britain the battle between Coke and Pepsi has been disturbed in the last couple of years by the launch of supermarkets' own-label products.

gets. Coca-Cola doubled its advertising budget last year, while Pepsi put millions behind the launch of its new sugar-free product Pepsi Max.

Helped by two hot summers, the market reached new heights. Cola drinks account for half the UK fizzy drink market. British consumption last year equalled 20 two-litre bottles per person — a third more than five years ago.

a year this decade, and aims to double sales by the year 2000. But Coke disputes these figures, pointing out that regular Coca-Cola still outsells regular Pepsi by a mile.

Coca-Cola, through its joint venture with Cadbury Schweppes, has a strong base in vending machines in confectioners and sports venues. Pepsi, on the other hand, benefits in pubs and clubs from joint ownership of Britvic with the brewers Bass, Allied Domecq and Whitbread.

Return of Poland's most famous electrician

Sancha Berg in Gdansk

TERODGE the tinted glass Mercedes, Lech Walesa smiled at the scores of foreign journalists assembled at the Gdansk shipyard gates. Once again, the yard had attracted the world's attention thanks to its most famous worker.

Mr Walesa's life was turning full circle, moving from the presidential palace back to his old job as an electrician.

Mr Walesa, aged 52, said financial pressure forced him back. "I've got no money to live on, and so I have to work," he said.



Ex-president Lech Walesa: have screwdriver, will travel

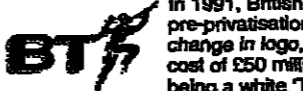
BBC invests £13m to aid the British film industry

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

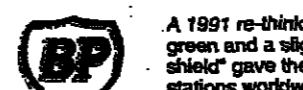
THE BBC yesterday announced a £13 million investment in 11 films, four for cinema release and seven for television, to go into production this spring.

The BBC is keen to establish a reputation as a supporter of the British film industry as strong as that achieved by Channel 4, which has enjoyed huge box office successes with Four Weddings and a Funeral, The Madness of King George, and Trainspotting.

Big change of image



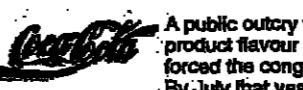
IN 1991, British Telecom revamped their old, pre-privatisation Post Office look with a change in logo, workwear and image, at a cost of £50 million.



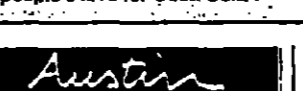
A 1991 re-think of the logo to "lots more green and a slight change in shape to the shield" gave the same look to 22,000 service stations worldwide — some of which still carried the Mobil name — after a year-long corporate identity review which cost £1 million, and a further £200-300 million to implement.



IN 1984, BA decided the way to compete in an increasingly competitive air travel market was to change its colour scheme.



A public outcry when Coca-Cola changed product flavour in April 1985 in North America forced the conglomerate to reverse its identity.



HOW MUCH MORE ABOUT IN BLUE? New Labour



ter it to Coke, but which also show that Virgin Cola is preferred to both.

Coca-Cola remained aloof, looking forward to this summer's sponsorship of the European football championships and the Olympics keeping its name on TV screens and its brands in more fridges than its competitors.

But Coca-Cola will welcome the publicity. In a private interview Mr Swanhaus admitted that the cola wars are phoney, aimed at keeping both sides in the news.

US, which is still thinking about it.

Pepsi's rivals were working hard at being unfazed by the blue onslaught.

By the end of next year customers in 190 countries will be drinking from the new blue can — except the

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US, which is still thinking about it.

Disability Today advertisement with logo and text: Disability Today is the monthly television programme for disabled people, their families and carers...

Handwritten Arabic text: صكنا من الامل

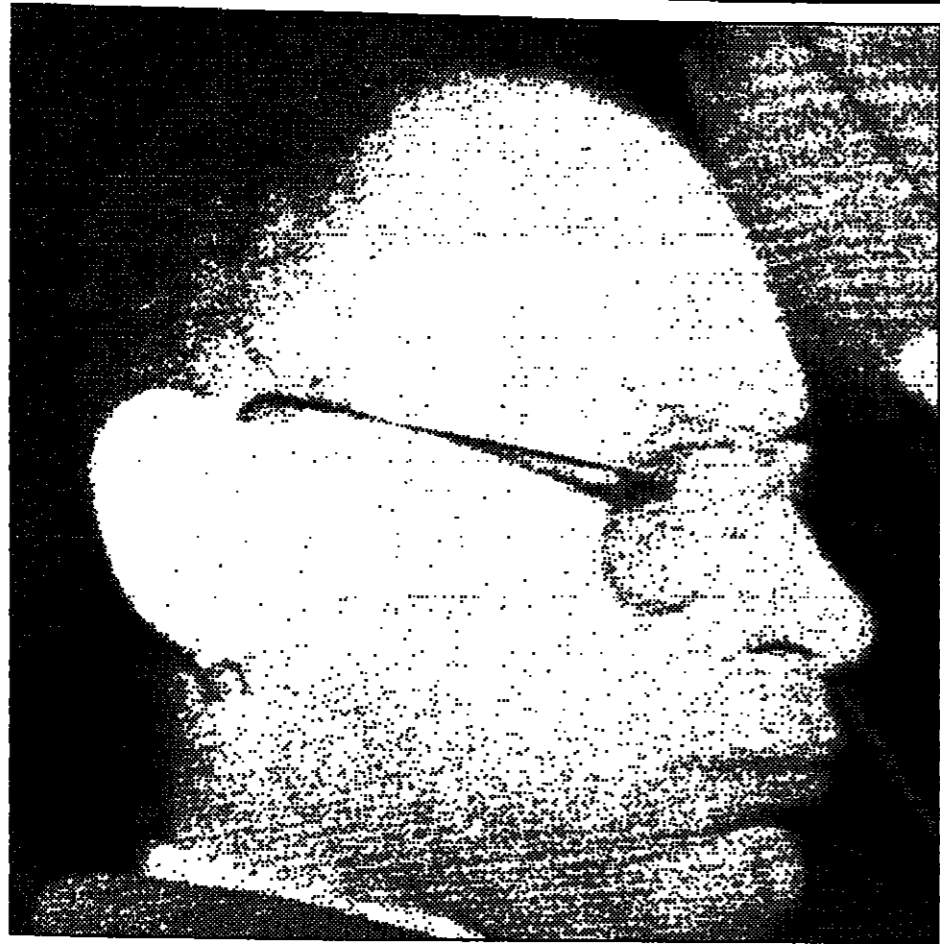
Making

Hamas thro

When it is... that the... needed to... Jack... see.

صوتك من الامل

A bill



Paul Vagg, who posed as bass guitarist David Steele (above right)



'This case began on April Fool's Day. That was entirely appropriate'

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Râble de lapin aux langoustines £25.00

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LATANTE CLAIRE

Police begin death probe at hospital

Martin Wainwright

POLICE have launched an investigation into four deaths in the intensive care unit of a leading hospital, where a senior nursing sister on the ward has been sacked for gross misconduct.

Officers were asked to intervene by the coroner at Newcastle upon Tyne, where 12 detectives are now examining medical records of the dead patients, ranging from a 12-year-old schoolgirl to a 68-year-old man.

Jim Cousins, the Newcastle Central Labour MP, last night criticised the Royal Victoria Infirmary Hospital Trust in the Commons and called for an independent inquiry.

Mr Cousins is concerned that the police were not called by the hospital but began the investigation at the instigation of the city coroner, Leonard Coyle, who, says the MP, was notified a fortnight after the hospital's inquiry.

The hospital inquiry examined allegations about the sister, who has 17 years' nursing experience but has not been named. She was suspended in February after a colleague raised concerns. She was later dismissed.

The police investigation is understood to centre on allegations of interference with drip feeds to the four patients. Their relatives have just been told of the circumstances and the finding of gross misconduct relating to the deaths, which happened between 1991 and last year.

A spokesman for the trust said: "The trust is co-operating with the police investigation."

Speaking in the Commons, Mr Cousins said: "Why has it taken four years for one of these suspicious deaths to come to light? This is a major, high-technology teaching hospital. Why was it left to the coroner to call in the police? What was the quality of the trust's legal advice? Why did it take five weeks from the original complaints for the coroner to be called in?"

Why did it take a fortnight after the initial inquiry had identified four suspicious deaths and sacked the nursing sister for the coroner to be called in? This smacks of weakness, confusion and cover-up."

Northumbria police confirmed an inquiry was being led by Detective Superintendent John Renwick. A spokeswoman said: "We are interviewing hospital staff and patients' relatives, and carrying out a thorough check of medical records obtained under a court order. The inquiry follows the hospital's disciplinary hearing when allegations of gross misconduct were made in relation to the sister's treatment of four seriously ill patients under her charge. All four were extremely ill, with different and severe medical problems."

The Northern regional office of the NHS said staff were aware of the situation and were being kept informed.

Making a meal of a fine cannibal

John Mullin

HE was a young pretender, posing as a Fine Young Cannibal and so treated to a £150 meal at a leading London restaurant. But had Paul Vagg instead enjoyed bacon and eggs at a greasy spoon, would he have faced a crown court trial at a cost to the taxpayer of £16,000? Judge Gerald Butler thought not.

The judge, fuming, halted the trial of Mr Vagg, aged 29, during its second day at Southwark crown court in south London yesterday.

Mr Vagg, an actor and musician, was accused of obtaining property by deception but Judge Butler ordered the jury to acquit him after the defence argued there was no case to answer.

The defendant was said to have obtained the meal at a plush Chelsea restaurant from Ian Levine, a record producer who has worked with Take That and Bad Boys Inc. Mr Vagg had been an army musician in the Scots Dragoon Guards, playing the saxophone. But he preferred to pose as David Steele, bass guitarist with the Fine Young Cannibals.

Judge Butler railed: "This case began on April Fool's Day. That was entirely appropriate for this quite extraordinary prosecution which in my judgment should never have been brought." If the case had involved £3.50 of bacon and eggs at Joe's Cafe instead of French cuisine, the £16,000 costs would have been saved, he said.

Mr Vagg had spent



La Tante Claire, the fashionable Chelsea restaurant where choices from the menu (above right) can lead to bills of £150 a head. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BILLOTTE

months pretending to be Steele. But there was no evidence he had illegally obtained the meal at La Tante Claire last June.

Judge Butler wondered if it was right that everybody was sitting in the crown court because a man who took a friend to a very expensive restaurant found that he was not who he thought he was. "Is that really the sort of case we should be doing here at £8,000 a day?"

The jury, told by Judge Butler they might think

such a sum could be better spent, had heard that Mr Vagg had been reluctant to go to the restaurant when invited one night last June. He even offered to pay for his meal.

Judge Butler said: "Even assuming, as you must at this stage, that the defendant said he was David Steele, a member of the pop group and really the name 'The Fine Young Cannibals', he is not and cannot be guilty in law of obtaining the cost of that meal by deception."

Mr Vagg, on £60 a week sickness benefit, told police he had used Steele's name for years after a journalist mistook him during an ITV charity telethon. "I got trapped in a joke that went too far. I tried really hard to try to squeeze myself out of this situation."

He had tried to use Steele's identity to introduce a young singer to Levine. He said after the case: "I never tried to gain anything for myself." He is considering suing the police.

Could Patricia have lived?

Martin Wainwright

ONE of the patients at the centre of the Newcastle inquiry was a teenage girl who suffered 50 per cent burns when a terrace house in Blyth was devastated by a butane gas explosion.

Patricia Dryden, who was 15, died in the intensive care unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, five days after the tragedy which also saw a youth severely burned and two other teenagers injured.

Firemen and police found some 10 butane lighter fuel cans scattered round a bedroom, which was torn apart by the blast. Patricia's mother Christine denied rumours at the time that her daughter, a

member of the local Blyth Hearts jazz band and a pupil at Tyndale high school, had been involved in sniffing gas for kicks. Police inquiries are continuing.

Patricia's uncle John Dryden said yesterday that news of the hospital inquiry had come as a further shock to the family. He said: "The police contacted us and said they were investigating irregularities in procedures in the intensive care unit. Patricia was rigged up to a lot of drips — because she was badly burned, she was losing a lot of fluid. We have been through hell, but this is an even bigger blow to the family. While this is going on, we will be asking ourselves: 'Could Patricia have lived?'"

Hamas threatens new bombings

Israel told to expect renewal of suicide attacks which killed 62

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE military wing of the Hamas Islamist movement yesterday issued a chilling warning to Israel to expect more suicide bombings from the same armed cells which horrified the country a month ago.

The group, which calls itself the Izzedin al-Qassam Brigades, said it had ordered its units "to resume the wonderful martyrdom operations and to set a burning fire anew in the heart of the intruding Zionist state".

Speaking in Qatar, the Israeli prime minister, Shimon Peres, replied that "Hamas wants to return to the old days when the Palestinian people were paralysed by the illusion that they can win something by terror... If they [Hamas] think they can win a battle by terror they are wrong."

In late February and early March, the Qassam group claimed responsibility for four suicide bombings in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Ashke-

lon, which together killed 62 people.

Israel and the PLO-run Palestinian Authority have taken harsh reprisals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of Islamists have been rounded up, and Hamas property seized. Travel bans and curfews have devastated the Palestinian economy. Israeli troops have blown up the family homes of suicide bombers, drawing strong criticism from human rights activists, who say that occupation forces are practising collective punishment.

The Qassam statement, faxed to a news agency in Jerusalem, acknowledged that it had been damaged by the Palestinian Authority's tough response. But, it boasted, "The Qassam brigades are not a volatile organisation... easy to hit or uproot. What had been destroyed of the towering Qassam structure... will be rebuilt in a short time."

The statement threatened reprisals against Palestinian Authority security men responsible for the arrests of

Hamas members. It claimed that detainees had been beaten and tortured.

The Qassam group and the parent Hamas movement have shown distinct signs of division. Late last year, the Hamas leadership came tantalisingly close to formalising a ceasefire with the PLO.

But in January Israeli agents assassinated the group's master bombmaker, Yahya Ayyash. The militants swore revenge, and took it in the suicide bombings.

Since then a succession of statements purportedly from Qassam has talked of ceasefires, and of more attacks. But for all the confusion, the group's latest bombastic threats are certain to be taken seriously within Israel, where public anger still runs high over the carnage in February and March.

The warning came a day after Israel had announced a token easing of its blockade on the West Bank and Gaza. Three thousand Palestinian labourers are to be allowed back to their work inside Israel. Over the past three years, more than 100,000 Palestinian workers, mostly poorly paid day labourers, have lost their jobs in a succession of Israeli border clo-

sures. Their places have been taken by some 50,000 guest workers, most from Thailand and Romania.

The closure policy has been bitterly condemned by the Palestinian president, Yasser Arafat. Yesterday, he hit out at a new lawyer, Mr Peres's proposal to hold a referendum on any future permanent peace treaty with the Palestinians.

"This is completely against what had been agreed upon," Mr Arafat told reporters in Gaza.

The Palestinian finance minister, Mohammed Nashed, called Mr Peres's pledge "illegal".

"You cannot call for a referendum on an issue that belongs to other people," he said. "This is Palestinian territory, and it is the sole responsibility of the Palestinian Authority. It cannot be a referendum for Jewish people to decide that."

Mr Peres surprised observers by casually throwing out the referendum suggestion to reporters during his flight on Monday to the Gulf state of Oman.

Israel and the PLO are due to open negotiations next month on a so-called final-status agreement.

Which of us, beguilingly informed by Dame Stella Rimington that the IRA plans an Easter Rising 80th anniversary bombfest in Bank Holiday Britain and that fresh powers are needed to prevent it, could deny her what she wants? Not Jack Straw, that's clear. This week he has been a sucker.

Martin Kettle page 9

THE MAN FROM ESCOM EXPLAINS...

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صكنا من الامل

Asbestos damages upheld by judges

Claire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

THE Appeal Court yesterday upheld a High Court ruling that the multinational engineering company T&N must pay a total of £115,000 compensation for fatal cancers contracted by two people who as children lived near an asbestos factory.

Three judges rejected an appeal against the ruling and found that T&N, parent company of J.W. Roberts, which operated the factory at Armley, Leeds until 1969, should have known about the dangers of asbestos dust long before the births of the victims.

The ruling will ease the path for around 40 similar claims now in the pipeline, including 23 already lodged with T&N. The judges' finding that the company should have known of the threat to lungs long before 1925 — earlier than the date cited by the High Court — could open the way to further claims.

Evelyn Margerison, aged 70, was awarded £50,000 by the High Court for the death five years ago of her husband, Arthur, born in 1925, from mesothelioma, a rare cancer of the chest lining. June Hancock, aged 60, who was awarded £65,000, was given two years to live when she was diagnosed in 1994 as suffering from the same disease.

The case is unusual because it involves exposure to asbestos dust in the environment. Most cases settled out of court have been brought by factory hands, dockers and other employees working directly with asbestos.

Asbestos litigation worldwide has proved a nightmare for the insurance industry and played a major part in the Lloyd's debacle. Epidemiologists say the long incubation period for mesothelioma probably means that the worst is yet to come.

Lord Justice Russell, sitting with Lord Justice Saville and Lord Justice Otton, said T&N had claimed it could not be held liable for the dangers before 1925. "The true date was much earlier, certainly long before Mr Margerison's birth date."

"His activities as a child, therefore, as well as Mrs Hancock's, were at a time when the defendants were on actual constructive notice as to the potential pulmonary damage that exposure to asbestos dust could bring about."

He added that while it was not known until 1959 that asbestos dust causes mesothelioma, an illness which shows no symptoms for decades, the fact that the danger of some harm to lungs was known when the children were playing in the dust is enough to make the company liable for the more serious harm.

The judges said a Home Office report in 1930 had linked asbestos to diseases including pulmonary and bronchial catarrh, asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema.

John Pickering, Mrs Margerison's solicitor, said: "Success in this case makes me a good deal more confident about future claims."

At the High Court hearing, witnesses had told how as children they had jumped on piles of asbestos. Lord Justice Russell said: "Sometimes the bales would burst open. Dust, covering the whole of the loading bays was a common feature and doors leading to the factory interior were frequently left open. Dust fibres clung to mesh over the windows. One witness spoke of children playing 'snowballs' using dust acquired in the areas that were open to them."

Evidence was overwhelming that dust was deposited in "enormous quantities" beyond the factory walls.

Mrs Margerison, who is recovering from a stroke and played a major part in the Lloyd's debacle. Epidemiologists say the long incubation period for mesothelioma probably means that the worst is yet to come.

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Engineer John Gwilliam inspecting Megafolia, at Oakwood Park, Narberth, Dyfed, the biggest wooden roller coaster built in Europe in 50 years. It opened on Saturday after tests using a computerised dummy passenger. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Advertisers get warning on use of sex in posters

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

A WARNING of growing public concern at the gratuitous use of sexual imagery in poster campaigns is issued today by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The authority says in its annual report: "The public are clearly expressing an increased level of disquiet about the images that confront them unwittingly in the high street."

imagery which the public find offensive," the report said.

"In both these instances however, the approach chosen by the advertisers was in keeping with the nature of the product advertised."

But complaints against posters for the film *Disclosure* and *Playboy* TV were rejected as unlikely to cause widespread offence. "In the authority's experience, it is the gratuitous use of sexual

Top 10 advert complaints

- British Safety Council: 1,192 complaints, upheld; Pope wearing hard hat with 11th commandment: "Thou shalt always wear a condom"
- Club 18-30: 490 complaints, upheld; "Girls, can we interest you in a package holiday?" (with a picture of a man with a bulge in his boxer shorts)
- International Fund for Animal Welfare: 270 complaints, upheld; "What kind of person mutilates small animals?" (comparison with serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer)
- Gallaher Tobacco: 251 complaints, upheld; National Lottery-style hand of fate "giving the finger" to a Hamlet cigar smoker.
- Warner Bros: 207 complaints, not upheld; Advertisement for *Disclosure* film, featuring actress Demi Moore in intimate embrace.
- Moore Laboratories: 167 complaints, upheld; Mailshot for Citra-Slim in form of advert torn out of magazine.
- Club 18-30: 150 complaints, not upheld; "The only thing in this photograph that's protected by law is the man's identity."
- Health & Home Shopping: 76 complaints, upheld; "£20,000 cash to be claimed" mail-out.
- Playboy TV: 70 complaints, not upheld; "Morgans — Erotic TV for lovers"
- Air Miles Promotion: 58 complaints, upheld; Feared runaway child who used father's credit card and passport without permission.

LSD 'tested as army weapon'

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THE hallucinogenic drug LSD was secretly tested on British servicemen at Porton Down in the 1950s in the hope of using it as an offensive weapon, it is claimed today.

The claim — in a Channel 4 television Dispatches programme — contradicts information given in Parliament and repeated yesterday by a spokesman for the Porton Down research establishment, that field trials of the drug only began there in the 1960s.

The difference in dates is crucial because in 1956 Britain renounced the use of offensive chemical weapons, and military research was concentrated on defensive measures such as gas masks.

Channel 4's evidence of the contradiction consists of a reference in recently declassified records of military LSD experiments suggesting that human tests were conducted in the 1950s, and a document marked Secret: UK Eyes Only, dated 1958, indicating

that the aim was to find a psychochemical compound which could be recommended as a military agent."

However, the Defence and Evaluation Research Agency (Dera) said yesterday that "as far as we are aware Porton Down didn't do any trials on LSD until the 1960s".

After having searched the public records and their own files, a spokesman said: "We have found no evidence that we were doing research on the offensive capability of LSD."

Confusion may have arisen, he added, because Porton Down scientists had for some years been monitoring research conducted elsewhere, for example at Guys Hospital.

Extensive military trials which were undoubtedly conducted during the 1960s showed that soldiers could be incapacitated by LSD, often by inducing uncontrollable laughter. But it was eventually concluded that an enemy would be unlikely to use the drug as a battlefield weapon, because it was expensive, hard to spread in aerosol form, and unpredictable in its effects.

Macho fire service to relax ban on glasses

James Melke
Community Affairs Editor

THE fire service, renowned for the fitness of recruits and macho image, is preparing to relax one of the toughest eyesight standards in Britain and change rules which bar people needing spectacles and contact lenses.

Even the SAS allows troops to wear glasses under some circumstances, and now fire brigades are developing breathing masks with inserts for spectacles ready for a switch this summer.

They may pay those who need glasses to have two pairs, tough, slip-proof but of "pleasing cosmetic appearance". But they are unlikely to pay for contact lenses.

Chief officers are satisfied crews' safety will not be compromised by the change designed to keep more experienced firefighters in service, cut pension and replacement costs, and end the risk of legal challenge to medical requirements deemed unnecessarily stringent.

The Fire Brigades Union is likely to resist changes in entry standards but support the introduction of spectacles for firefighters

whose eyesight deteriorates. It is also against contact lenses. Formal guidance is expected after a meeting at the Home Office this month.

Between 15 and 20 per cent of 60,000 full and part-time firefighters may need help with their eyesight if the recommendations for "appropriate" spectacles and contact lenses are adopted.

The proposed changes follow a three-year study for the Home Office by a team at City University, London. It concluded the high entry eyesight standards had not prevented many firefighters failing subsequent

tests at their three-yearly medical examinations. The team's report noted that even now "firefighters who ordinarily, when off duty, use spectacles or contact lenses to improve their sight, are required to work with relatively poor vision".

Gordon Russel, chief fire officer for Lancashire and chairman of the personnel and training committee of the Chief Fire Officers' Association, said: "To join the service, you will still need good eyesight, but the future of firefighters with deteriorating eyesight will be much more secure."

David Matthews, national health and safety officer for the FBU, said: "I am not being disrespectful to the SAS... but every minute of every day, firefighters somewhere in the land are having a battle. It is inevitable they will be entering smoky areas where eyesight is critical."

Hard contact lenses will be barred even if all the changes go through because they might be sealed onto firefighters' eyeballs in flash fires.

Only three in five men aged 18 to 22 meet the present eyesight entry standards. The new standard will raise this to nearly nine in 10.

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Labour condemns 'fiasco' as Government axes £2.7bn London CrossRail

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

THE Government yesterday effectively consigned to the scrap heap the £2.7 billion London CrossRail scheme, in a move condemned by Labour and business groups.

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, said the scheme would have to "come under other rail projects planned for the capital — the Jubilee Line extension, the Channel Tunnel link and Thameslink 2000. Construction of the underground rail route linking regional lines in the east and west will not now start before 2008."

In a statement yesterday, he said he had asked the three bodies promoting the scheme — British Rail, London Transport and Railtrack — not to apply for legislative powers to build the line under the Transport and Works Act. Instead Railtrack, once it is privatised, is being invited "to consider the project further."

But he stressed that CrossRail should proceed "only as a joint venture with a substantial private sector contribution" — and made no reference to funding or the future of the 150-strong project team.

The project has absorbed £140 million of taxpayers' money since it was conceived in the 1988 Central Rail Study, and has a £14 million budget for this year, and £12 million in each of the next two years.

14 years for sex attacker who tried to murder boy

James Peacock

A MAN who raped and attempted to murder a 13-year-old boy was jailed for 14 years yesterday at Leeds crown court.

Mr Justice Collins said James Peacock, 49, deserved a lengthy sentence because he was a danger to the public and his victim was still terrified.

Peacock, a fork lift truck driver, from Marnham, Bradford, was found guilty last month of attempting to murder the boy. He admitted the rape.

The court had heard the accused was fishing near a bridge in Haworth, West Yorkshire, last June, when Peacock began to talk to him. As the boy packed his belongings, Peacock produced a knife, grabbed him and raped him. When his victim hit him with a stone, Peacock tried to strangle him, punched him and held his head under the water.

The judge said the youngster had suffered terrible psychological injuries. Peacock was jailed for 14 years for the attempted murder and seven years for the rape, to run concurrently.

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World news in brief

Videotape captures police brutality

A VIDEOTAPE of sheriff's deputies clubbing a man and a woman — suspected illegal immigrants — in Riverside County, California, has been shown repeatedly on local television.

Cult scandal hits TV station

THE TOKYO Broadcasting System is under attack for showing members of the Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult a 1989 interview with an anti-cult lawyer.

Identity crisis for Afrikaners

AN AFRIKANER youth league, the Junior Rapportryers, announced this week it was launching a Supreme Court action to force the state broadcasting services to give more air-time to its language.

Adieu to French summer time

FRANCE may abandon summer time, a decision which may complicate relations with Britain just as the two countries have harmonised the dates on which they put the clocks forward and back.

Liberian refugees killed

TWENTY-SEVEN people were killed in an attack on a refugee camp in Guinea, north-west Africa, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.



Militant action... Riot police stand guard over squatters who occupied the roof of a building in Amsterdam's docklands yesterday to protest against plans for a bridge

Cassock censure for cleric

ARCHBISHOP DIMITRIOS MERRAKIS, whose trial on immorality charges triggered violent riots among the faithful in Cyprus, has been censured for "being seen without his cassock".

Mr Clean out of Italian poll

ANTONIO DI PIETRO, the hero of the Italian courts' drive against corruption, has decided to stay out of politics — at least for the moment.

Fraternity flourishes as French Communist Party scents victory for left wing in next elections

Emboldened left seek new alliance

Paul Webster in Paris

LEADERS of all six main components of the French left shared a platform at a mass meeting last night that could form the basis of a new alliance, 18 years after the last such pact collapsed.

Les Verts (Dominique Voynet), and the Communist Revolutionary League (Alain Krivine)

Mr Hue's claim that the gathering was "historic" was no exaggeration. Apart from informal joint meetings in May 1986 and occasional protest marches, there has been no precedent for an across-party national summit ranging from the Greens to the Trotskyist Revolutionary League.

been awkward. Four Communist ministers joined the 1981 coalition government only to walk out in 1984.

Yesterday's meeting came almost a year after Mr Jospin won 47 per cent of the vote in the presidential election, when all movements rallied to the Socialists.



Red carpet... Presidents Yeltsin (right) and Lukashenko (left) leave the Kremlin with Patriarch Alexei II after yesterday's signing ceremony

Slav alliance turns clock back

David Hearst in Moscow

IN A staged display of Slavie brotherhood, the presidents of Russia and Belarus signed a pact yesterday to bewilder the post-communist world.

accused of shortsightedness and of presiding over the surrender of Belarus's sovereignty

Both partners were relieved to say "I do", seal their pact with three kisses, and stride down the red-carpeted staircase to receive the acclamation of their two peoples in the cathedral square.

Bulgaria in turmoil over Yeltsin's offer of a place in his union

Ian Traynor

THE old saw about Bulgaria being the 16th Soviet republic when the Kremlin held sway over half of Europe has suddenly returned to haunt the struggling Balkan state.

France offers subsidies to save town-centre cinemas from losing trade to giant multiplexes

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

IN AN attempt to save the cinema from going the way of corner shops swallowed up by hypermarkets, the French government is to clamp down on the development of multiplex screens.

French armed robbers shot dead 'had strong Islamic fundamentalism links'

Reporter in Paris

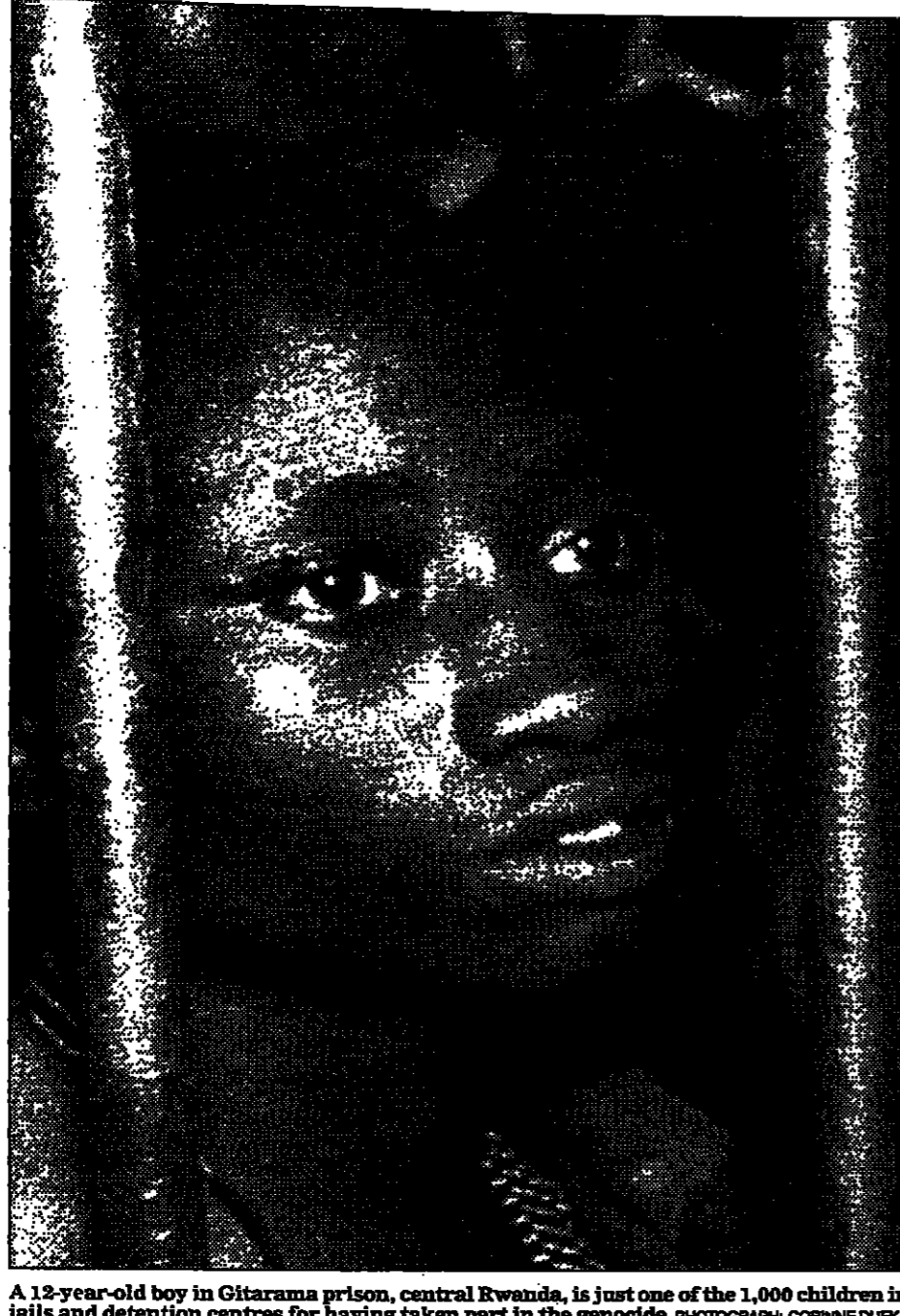
A MAGISTRATE investigating a gang of suspected armed robbers virtually wiped out by French and Belgian police last week said yesterday there was evidence of close links with Islamic fundamentalism.

Five suspected gangsters, four of North African origin and the fifth an ethnic Frenchman converted to Islam, died and four police officers were wounded during 24 hours of violence in northern France and Belgium starting last Thursday evening.

Advertisement for a product, possibly a beverage, featuring a large image of a person's face and various text elements including 'EVERY', 'F', 'E210.33w E17', 'E304.33w E75', 'E149', 'E229', 'E249', 'E359', and 'FRE'.

Handwritten Arabic text: صلاوات على الامم

Survivors of the genocide in Rwanda pay with their lives



A 12-year-old boy in Gitarama prison, central Rwanda, is just one of the 1,000 children in jails and detention centres for having taken part in the genocide. PHOTOGRAPH: CORINNE DURKA

Rakiya Omaar reports on the systematic killings sweeping a traumatised country that began a week of mourning yesterday for the million massacred two years ago

CASIMIR Kayiranga was one of 8,000 Tutsis, out of 252,000, who survived the 1994 genocide in the Kibuye region of western Rwanda. This year he, too, was killed. On the night of January 13, armed men entered his house and shot him dead. His wife, Esperance Nyiransengimana, whose family was wiped out in 1994, was expecting their first baby. Her face marked by bewilderment, she explained the cause of her husband's death: "My husband was a victim because he was a survivor of the genocide."

Having lost his first wife and eight children in the genocide, Casimir remarried, opened a shop and began to rebuild his life in his home commune of Gishyita, Kibuye. He reported some of his former neighbours, whom he had seen killing Tutsis on the hills of Kibuye. For Casimir, exposing the authors of his misery was critical to his sense of security and well-being. He paid with his life in a country whose control by the Tutsi-led government is still far from complete. Throughout Rwanda, survivors of the Tutsi genocide, which started on April 6 1994, are being hunted down and

murdered. They are dying in such numbers that some refuse to call this the "post-genocide" period. People are beaten with nail-studded clubs, slashed with machetes, hacked by axes and blown apart by grenades.

Hutus who have testified about atrocities they witnessed, or who have good relations with the government, and with the army in particular, are also being killed and terrorised into silence. The "uncompleted genocide" is being taken to its logical conclusion: to prevent exposure of the killers and to discourage survivors from reclaiming land and livestock looted in 1994. So many people — in Rwanda and in the refugee camps — are implicated in the killing, raping and looting that it is in their interest to seal their impunity by destroying the evidence.

The violence is most pronounced in the countryside, but the killers also hunt their quarry in urban areas. On Christmas Day, 1995, Hélie Mukangenzi, who worked for news in the capital Kigali, was raped and her throat slit after she accused a man of rapes and abductions during the genocide. For survivors who dare to



Pierre Rumanura: A Hutu who was shot dead with his wife and neighbour because he could not help but speak out about what he had seen



Hélie Mukangenzi: She was raped and her throat was cut on Christmas Day 1995 after she accused a man of rapes and abductions during the genocide



Pierre Nzeyimana: Shot dead in 1996 with two of his sisters after they demanded the return of property stolen by their neighbours in 1994

reclaim what is rightfully theirs, the penalty can be death. On March 1 1996, Pierre Nzeyimana, aged 24, and his two sisters, Spéciose Mukwewemeyinkiko, aged 34 and Hyacinthe Mukarwego, aged 32, were shot in Muhahwe, the south-west province of Cyangugu, after they demanded that neighbours return property stolen in 1994. Three men who had been ordered to return them had been arrested in connection with their killings. Survivors who want to avoid a similar fate are being

forced off their land and even out of their regions. Driven by fear, they congregate in areas near military barracks in search of protection. Even those who have not made accusations or demanded restitution of property have been killed. Crime is not to have died during the genocide. One night in January 1996, grenades were thrown at an orphanage for Tutsi orphans of the genocide in Kamebe, Cyangugu. One boy was killed and 25 injured, three seriously.

Hutus who refuse to remain silent are also being targeted. Pierre Rumanura, an elderly local leader in Bugarama, Cyangugu, was shot dead with his wife and a neighbour who had come to rescue them. Two of his children were injured by grenades. A local official said he died because "he could not help but speak out about what he had seen during the genocide". Béatrice Nyiransengimana, a 30-year-old peasant living in Gitarama province, central Rwanda, has experienced the

full range of strategies used to frighten witnesses. Her husband was axed to death by her brothers because he was a Tutsi. Her brothers and paternal uncles killed five of her seven children with machetes in front of her. Béatrice has sought to bring them, along with many of her neighbours, to justice. Local government officials, her neighbours and family are determined to thwart her. She has been arrested and locked up with women accused of being killers. She has been ridiculed at public meetings as a mad woman.

One official offered her money to drop the charges. She refused. So the intimidation, including an attack on her house last February, continues. Shunned by her family and former friends, she says nothing will dissuade her from pursuing the course of justice.

Rakiya Omaar is co-director of African Rights and author of Rwanda: Killing the Evidence, published today.

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UN chiefs refute criticism of its failure to prevent killings

IN THE run-up to the second anniversary of Rwanda's genocide, the United Nations has closed ranks against serious criticism of its failure to prevent the killing of nearly 1 million people, raised last month in a big independent evaluation sponsored and financed by UN agencies, governments and non-governmental organisations.

Accusations of Denmark's foreign ministry, has produced detailed rebuttals of the UN's comments. In particular he points out that the absence of leadership at UN headquarters (mentioned in the report and disputed by the UN) refers to the lack of action or words in the first two weeks after President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was killed when his plane was shot down on April 6.

US and EU cut off Burundi aid

BRUSSELS and Washington have cut off crucial support to Burundi's war-battered economy after top officials said the government lacked the will to end political and ethnic violence.

The suspension will put pressure on the administration, which is controlled by the Tutsi minority, to establish representative government and relax Tutsi domination of the economy and military. But Burundian officials warned of turmoil if further economic decline stopped the government paying the army and its debts.

The head of the US Agency for International Development, Brian Atwood, and EU commissioner Emma Bonino left Burundi yesterday, saying the government had failed to commit itself to reform.

The international community can no longer continue to support the economy of this country. We will not continue to subsidise the status quo," Mr Atwood said.

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Rattling the dovecot

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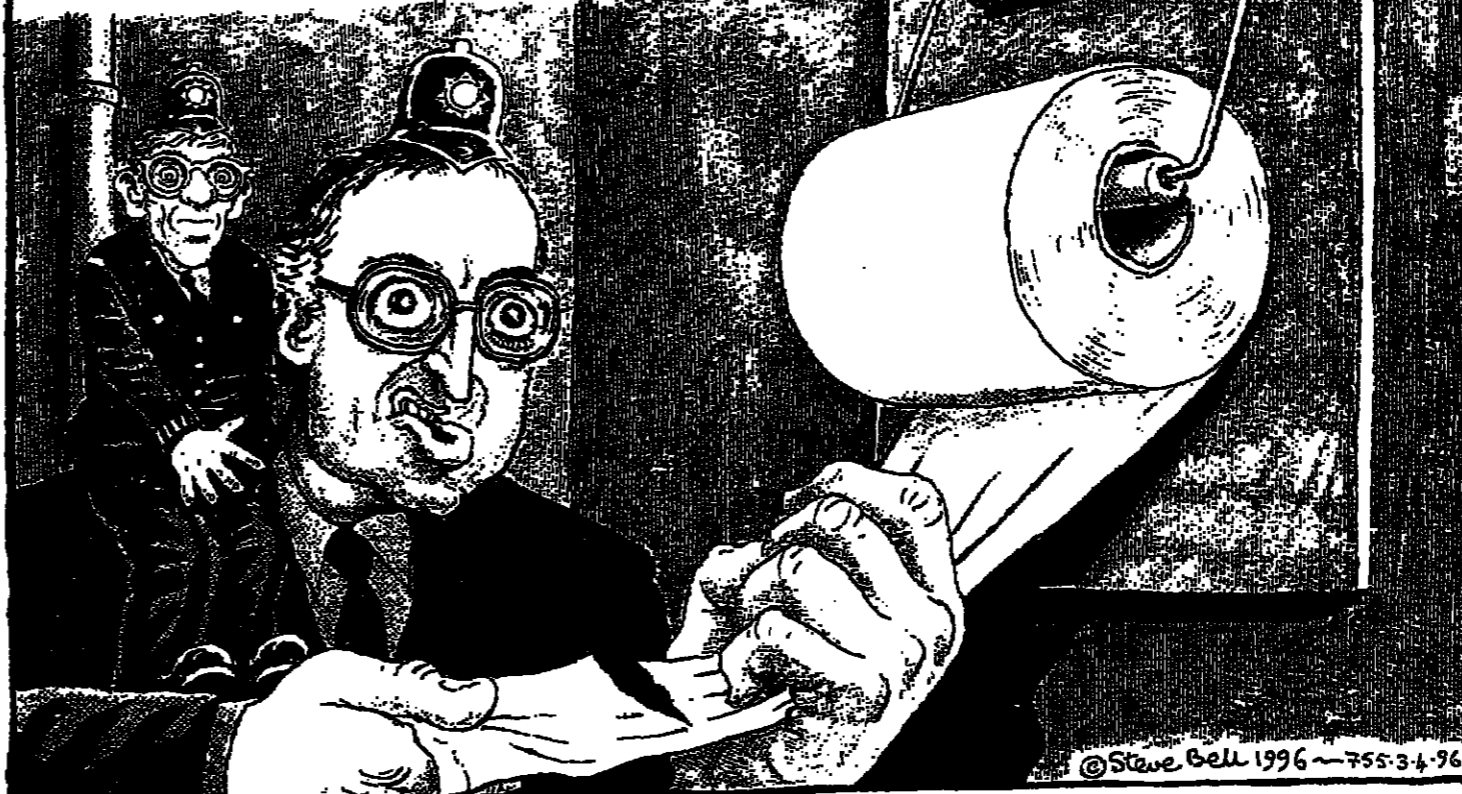
THE INTERESTING thing about Real World, the alliance of 32 campaigning charities and pressure groups launched yesterday is why it didn't happen years ago. Businesses realised decades back — when they formed the Confederation of British Industry — that it was much easier to influence government if the large number of companies and trade associations came together to lobby for the central planks of policy on which they could all agree rather than being picked off by the government of the day one by one. Real World is a sort of political party without candidates. It claims to represent 2.1 million supporters who have buried their differences to agree on a manifesto of 12 points most of which are not only sensible but running with the grain of contemporary politics (even if governments have been extremely slow to implement them). The manifesto will be presented to every candidate at the next election in an attempt to deflect politicians from their single-tracked obsession with improving consumption. Jonathan Porritt says that RW will "rattle the dovecot of British politics as it's never been rattled before."

This is both its strength and its weakness. It is strong where it is demanding tougher targets for objectives already on the domestic agenda, such as 100,000 social houses a year to meet the huge increase in households over the next decade already identified by government statisticians; reducing road traffic by 10 per cent by 2010, establishing a Bill of Rights and a target for reducing the UK's CO2 emissions by 20 per cent between 1990 and 2005 (where progress so far has been partly accidental due to the unexpected rise of gas-fired power stations at the expense of coal rather than as a result of a purposive strategy). It is weak where it is demanding the phased replacement of national insurance

taxes (to boost employment) by taxes on pollution. This is a very interesting idea, but ought to be on a wider European agenda so any perceived losses of international competitiveness could be neutralised. International lobbies are also needed to ensure countries keep to the widely ignored — UN pledge to spend 0.7 per cent of national income on aid and to control international arms transfers.

One of the coalition's lesser demands — regular publication of an alternative measure of GDP to reflect special and environmental factors — is surely something they are uniquely placed to do themselves. The proposal which costs most money — £1 billion a year of public investment in community and voluntary enterprises — is the one you won't find in the manifestos of the main political parties who are scared of financial commitments. Yet it is the one that could have the biggest short-term effect on employment. On both sides of the Atlantic the Third Sector — of voluntary effort, charities and care — has been identified as perhaps the only growth area for jobs during the next decade when both manufacturing and the service industries could be shedding jobs simultaneously. It is possible that in the long-run this could be partly financed by lottery proceeds when the Millennium Fund ceases to qualify at the end of the decade. Meanwhile it would be a cost-effective use of public money to start spending now. But there is no way this Government, hell-bent on increasing the consumption-driven feefood factor, will divert £1 billion from its tax-cutting treasure chest for the voluntary sector. Labour is more sympathetic in principle but is running scared of making spending commitments like this. If Real World manages to shift Labour on this, then we may have to change our views about what we mean by the real world.

BRITISH POLITICS EXPLAINED: THE UNWRITTEN CONSTITUTION



Letters to the Editor

Fundamental truths

ADDRESSING the 11th session of the self-styled Muslim Parliament in London on Sunday, its leader, Dr Kalim Siddiqui, talked of a "campaign of demonising Islam and Muslims in Britain" following the suicide bombings in Israel (Muslim leader says Zionists orchestrating "Islamophobia" April 1). Am I the only one who believes this man to be dangerous and transgressing one of the country's laws? You report that he "re-emphasised the parliament's support for the seven-year fatwa on Salman Rushdie (last order that must be pulled out)". Who is demonising Islam more than Siddiqui himself? And does the law allow him to make such insane demands to end the life of a British citizen? Arnold Wesker. Hay on Wye, Hereford HR3 5RJ.

ADMIRABLE Claire Rayner (Give us a break, April 1) is right about paternity leave. Just for the record, though, I must correct what she says about the presence of fathers in the labour ward being unheard of in the mid-fifties. When my first child was born at University College Hospital, London, in 1966, my young husband was certainly there to see his daughter rush out into the world — a moment of unforgettable joy. He was there for all our later children's arrivals but one, a son which he was excluded by different hospital for medical reasons; and I'd say he bonded least well with that child. Claire Tomalin. London NW1.

MY wife was all set to commence her training as a nurse this year. For both of us it represented an achievement which would truly celebrate her personal struggle out of the psychosis precipitated by the birth of our son in 1961. Because of the very small station's articles but one, a son which he was excluded by different hospital for medical reasons; and I'd say he bonded least well with that child. Claire Tomalin. London NW1.

Stop new search powers

YOUR report (Police win stop and search power, April 1) highlights the possibility of police forces using new emergency powers designed to counter terrorism to arrest drug users. As such, it will add to existing powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. Home Office statistics show, nationally, a 33 per cent increase in stop and searches for drugs under the Act between 1993 and 1994. Yet 85 per cent of those stopped on suspicion were not arrested. The figures also demonstrate a disproportionate effectiveness between police-force areas.

THE Government's drugs strategy, Tackling Drugs Together, rightly highlights the need for co-ordinated action to reduce the demand for drugs. This can be achieved through investment in treatment and education. The police must assure us that any new powers are not used to distort further the effects of propelling more drug-users into the costly, and

inappropriate, clutches of the criminal justice system. Roger Howard, Chief Executive, Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE. **THE** rush to increase police stop-and-search powers is a grave threat to civil liberties and one to which the Labour Party shouldn't be so supinely acquiescing. As someone who regularly drives through the road blocks in the City of London I have seen how powers are already abused. Set up to counter the IRA terrorist, it seems strange that many of those pulled over appear to be black motorists. I know of no convicted black IRA bombers. Is there something I should be told or am I right in thinking that without better safeguards police will abuse their new powers? Sarah Gwy, 28 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

I HAVE long been a Labour Party supporter but two articles on your front page on Tuesday (ironically, alongside a Labour Party advert attempting to recruit new members) have given me cause to reconsider. The Labour Party should be organising protest inside and outside Parliament against the Tory government's attempt to lessen the powers of the European Court of Human Rights (Ministers seek curb on rights). This court is one of the few protections we have left against oppression. Further down the page, I read that Labour is supporting a regressive measure which will allow police to stop and search people at random. A licence to harass or what? It's beginning to look as if when Labour wins power, it will just carry on where the Tories left off. Thomas Kelly, 11 Hillbrook Grove, Birmingham B33 8DG.

What works with women

NICKI Griffin suggests that an equal number of men would prefer to stay at home if only they dared say so (Letters, April 2). The latest survey conducted by MORI for the Whirlpool Foundations asked men just that question and they did dare to say that. Given enough money for the things they needed, eight out of 10 would give up full-time work. The majority of both men and women in this survey, which found similar results in other European countries, said that their families were the most important part of their life and that they worked mainly because they needed the money. Modern feminist campaign organisations are far from being out of touch with ordinary women. Eight out of 10 women said in the survey that their ideal lifestyle was to combine work with family life. The real challenge is to change the world of work and home so that the lives of both women and men can come closer to that ideal. Shelagh Diplock, Director, Fawcett Society, Fifth Floor, 45 Beech Street, London EC2Y 8AD.

Core values in the global village

A level playing field requires fair labour as well as fair trade.

JACQUES CHIRAC was right to use this week's G7 summit on jobs to point out that developing countries should not compete with Europe by condoning miserable labour standards by employers. The British government replied that this was protectionism. The reaction was as predictable as it was shortsighted, for the French president had made it clear that developing countries were perfectly entitled to compete by lower wages and less extensive social security benefits. The issue is not to try to impose European social standards throughout the world, or set some global minimum wage. What the French government is calling for is a recognition that there are certain core human rights which need to be encouraged and enforced. These are the freedom to join trade unions and the freedom for these unions to bargain collectively, as well as the abolition of forced labour and the exploitation of child labour. They are basic requirements, whatever a country's level of development or average wages are. Most developing countries accepted this when they signed up to the International Labour Organisation and its various conventions. What is needed is more work on how to investigate and enforce compliance with these conventions rather than trying to deflect the issue into a heated argument about free trade versus protectionism. Although it did not spell it out as clearly as it could have, the Group of Seven agreed yesterday that the issue can be put to the

World Trade Organisation when it holds its first ministerial meeting in Singapore in December. This is a useful first step though it is important that Britain does not try to block it altogether by claiming it is not a trade-related issue. The WTO is young without much expertise in the field, and it would be helpful if, as the new boy on the Geneva block, it worked closely with the ILO. Globalisation is not just a North-South issue. Some of the fiercest competition now goes on within the South, as the more advanced Asian tigers like South Korea and Taiwan find themselves losing jobs to workers in countries such as the Philippines and Malaysia. Behind them lower down on the labour standards scale come China, Vietnam, and Indonesia. Internationally agreed social clauses would help to ensure that competition is not based on unfair or degrading conditions. By enhancing the role of trade unions they indirectly provide the mechanism for improving safety standards and eliminating forced labour and child exploitation. It would also be good if the WTO drew up reports on labour standards compliance to go with its country-by-country trade policy reviews. These could be based on the ILO's examinations. By acting together the two organisations could give a cost-effective impetus to the important link between fair trade and fair labour standards which the Lille meeting has put on the international political agenda.

I wandered lonely in a crowd

YOU cite psychiatrist Anthony Stonor's view that solitude is essential for creativity (Lone Rangers, March 27). Yet the very next day you carried an obituary of David Packard, founder of the computer company Hewlett-Packard and a man who understood how to foster innovation (Computer giant in a garage, March 28). The obituary pointed out that, instead of plush offices, executives at Hewlett-Packard had bicycles with their work out so that others could come by and offer ideas. Hewlett-Packard is the second-largest computer company in the US. One can only conclude that social interaction can foster creativity, and that solitude is not essential. Alexander Chablo, 23 Goulden Road, Manchester M20 4ZE.

It looks mad - but how do you tell?

THERE is no laboratory test that can decide if a young living animal is afflicted with the agent causing BSE (How mad the truth was butchered, March 23). The diagnosis can only be made by observing the animal. Should signs lead to a diagnosis of BSE in the older animal, it seems reasonable to assume that the animal has been carrying the agent all the time, in light of the latent period. As in some human diseases, the greatest concentration of the agent appears in the nervous system. The agent, be it prion or virus, is ingested and subsequently transmitted from the intestines to the nervous system, brain, spinal cord and nerves. There appear to be only three routes of transmission: blood stream, lymphatic system and perinatal channels. Muscle masses (ie meat) are liberally supplied with all these systems. It is suggested that it is safe to eat the meat from a young animal, but is it? The agent is in transit across the muscle masses. BSE is a zoonotic disease. The zoonotic means of combating the BSE agent, there remains only one method of eradication: totally removing the vector — incinerating all cattle. It then remains for measures to be taken to avoid new stock being affected by the agent possibly hiding in pasture, feed and water. The risk of contracting CJD may statistically be 0.001 per cent, but to the patient it is 100 per cent. (Dr) E G Rees Jones, 15 Darley Road, Manchester M16 0DG.



Consumed

UNFORTUNATELY, we have seen a steady diminution in the status of consumer affairs in government since Alan Williams was the first Minister of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection (Letters, March 28). Now we have an under-resourced Corporate and Consumer Affairs Division within the DTI which has seen its budget cut by around 30 per cent in three years. The NCC, too, has long been concerned about the consumer interest in food being in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. MAFF promotes the interests of the food and agriculture industries as well as protecting consumers. In 1989, we called for an independent Food Agency so that the regulatory function of food safety and inspection should be separated from the promotion of the food and agriculture industries. We believe this conflict of interest has been a key factor in MAFF's lateness in introducing many of the measures needed to protect the public from BSE. It is high time that consumers became stakeholders in the Whitehall machine. Ruth Evans, Director, National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Beside Viverdon Plantation an alert flock of slender, shimmering range close to the hedge, protected from the east wind cutting across from Dartmoor. Nearby, a sheltered tributary of the Tamar drops from 500ft at Vernigo to almost sea-level at Pill Head, one and a half miles downstream. The extremely steep valley side, opposite north-facing oak woods, is separated from plateau fields by a stoned-up bank, riddled with rabbit holes, re-enforced with sheep netting and topped by a trimmed hedge of budding thorn and holly with curtains of lambs tails and prickly gorse, thick with yellow flowers. Princeps daffodils grow on the bank, remnants of cleared market gardens now used for grazing, evidenced by parallel ribbons of bright green sheep tracks across the precipitous slope. Beyond Heathfield, Birchknayes' and Brentwoods' steep orchards and daffodil gardens are engulfed by spruce and greening larch, closing in on packing-houses where stone chimneys and galvanised roofs are collapsing under scrambling ivy. Rows of white narcissi buds, interspersed with clumps of primroses, grow on an open bank and a cherry plum is swathed in creamy white blossom, luminous in the afternoon sun. Closer to the river, some daffodils are grown commercially but this is now exceptional. The days when hard-working growers scanned the rows at daybreak for dew shimmering on blades of stray grass and the subsequent deployment of men with hoes are relegated to folk memory. It is no longer profitable to hand-cultivate early flowers and fruit on steep ground and, on the flatter areas, well-drained soils and the generally mild damp climate make the land more suited to pasture for grazing than widespread arable cropping. The very survival of cattle rearing is now in question and back at Heathfield they are resigned to eking out the silage, continuing to feed prime bullocks which currently nobody wants. VIRGINIA SPIERS

The prevention of debate bill

No new emergency, so why has Parliament been hustled?

EMERGENCY laws can be dangerous laws. We all know that. Legislate in haste: repent at leisure in the European Court of Human Rights. Sometimes we all accept that emergency laws are a necessary evil in order to secure a greater good. But for there to be an emergency, there must also be an emergency. In the case of the Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Provisions) Bill there is no such thing. Whatever you may think of the original Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1974, it is clear that the bill was brought in during an emergency, the aftermath of two bombings in Birmingham. The bombs went off one week; the PTA was on the statute book by the end of the next. The same applied to much of the other rapid track legislation in our history. Where is the emergency which genuinely justifies these new laws? The Canary Wharf explosion, cited by some

ministers, took place on February 9. It is not acceptable to bring a bill forward nearly two months later and curtail debate on it as if the blast had happened last week. The only other proffered justification is an event which has not happened and may not happen — a further bombing this weekend. Well, if that threat is so real then why are we not being told about it in detail? No one denies that we must guard against the bombers. But why was no hint given of this legislation when the PTA was renewed only three weeks ago? It is said the Home Office had the bill drafted a fortnight ago. It certainly could have published it last week. Time could have been set aside for proper debate within the available timetable. Parliament could have been asked to sit tomorrow if necessary. Emergency legislation can be a necessary abuse of the normal rules. But this is an abuse of an abuse.

صكرا من الاجل

صباحنا من الامل

Diary Matthew Norman

NOVELTY being a rare and precious flower in the world of public relations, let us raise our hats today to book-pusher Jonathan Woodliff. Faced with the task of launching The Goldfish Bowl, an account of prison life by erstwhile Parkhurst lifer Norman Parker, Mr Woodliff first hired the Groucho Club, but then departed from the usual script by inviting no fewer than eight murderers. Adding Mr Parker, who devoted 24 years to pleasing Her Majesty after a shooting in 1970, this makes nine - widely believed by experts to be a world record for a book launch. Those struggling to identify the killers on Tuesday night were told to work it out for themselves. Every single suspect put to Mr Woodliff by the likes of Amberon Waugh proved to be one of the several crime reporters in attendance, and the party ended with the anonymity of all eight - old friends of the author from his days doing bird - intact.

AN EU-organised business-conference dinner in Brussels last week, a short, plump German whose badge read European Meat Federation approached a reader of the Diary. "Do you know," said the German, "that your BBC has offered me money to eat beef on TV?" Adding that he said no "You do not know what they will do with it", and refusing to elaborate in any way, the German made his farewells and departed.

HAVING worked so hard last week to remove any lingering stain from the reputation of Michael Winner's X-fronts, I am distressed by a juvenile prank in the News of the World. For reasons best known to the editor, Philip Hall allowed an advert offering help to the incontinent (headlined Bed-wetting) to be prominently displayed beside Mr Winner's column last Sunday. This is not the first time I have had cause to upbraid Mr Hall for such a prank at a columnist's expense. Following a recent rebuke over the demolition of Lord Wyatt of Weeford (on one infamous occasion, Woody appeared next to gardening), Mr Hall swiftly found the old boy a permanent spot nearer the front. Let us hope he makes similar amends to Michael for this childish insult.

IN New York, Margaret Healy has been charged with prostitution. Having stripped off and attempted to secure an advance fee of \$150, she discovered her client to be an undercover cop from the vice squad. In mitigation, the court heard the defendant insist that the incident was a one-off. Admitting to running a stable of 10 hookers from her apartment, Mrs Hall, a grandmother of 66, explained that on the day in question she was desperately short-staffed, and had been forced to muck in with the girls.

IN this week of all weeks, our thoughts turn naturally to the spirit, so I am intrigued by the insights of William Shatner in the Radio Times. The Star Trek actor is on splendid form as he turns his mind to the subject of archery. "It can be very mystical," he tells the excellent Andrew Duncan. "There's a book on the Art of Archery, which describes how the unity of the bow, arrow, target and archer all become one - heaven and earth - so the archer knows when to release the arrow." Mr Shatner has means, "I was into that, but if you say you're into Zen you're not, because you're not supposed to be able to explain it." Ahh.

ARLITZ on cannabusers has run into problems in Cambodia, reports the South China Morning Post. The drug has long been unofficially tolerated, but with French and American encouragement, efforts have been launched to enforce the law more strictly. Early results have been disappointing. "It's been difficult to crack down on offenders, because most are foreigners who tend to smoke marijuana at night," the head of the Phnom Penh drug squad explained. "When our officers are off-duty..."



Cowardice in the face of the ruling class

Commentary Martin Kettle

PERSUASIVE security briefing, especially ushering from the painted lips of Dame Stella Rimington, is a difficult thing for an impressionable chap to argue against. If an intelligent lay Health Secretary can find himself powerless to contradict his specialist medical advisers, then what chance is there that a jobbing politician could defy the advice of a security chief who speaks with sweet reason and whose information is, of its very nature, uncontradictable?

and that fresh powers are needed to prevent it, could deny her what she wants? Certainly not Jack Straw, that clear Labour's shadow ministers may have played hard to get before Michael Howard called them in to announce his instant-whip anti-terrorism legislation. They may have been told something so horrendously shocking about an imminent IRA outrage and the capacity of fresh powers to prevent it. They may even have persuaded themselves that they were a revealing moment - important concessions restricting the police's right to rummage unchallenged in our underwear.

will do nothing. And this week's shabby little shocker, to purloin a phrase from an early review of Tosca, sends just such an awful shiver down the spine. The first time I ever sat through a parliamentary debate was in November 1974 when the Wilson government rushed the first Prevention of Terrorism Act through the Commons. It was an evening which is hard to forget, especially for Roy Jenkins's speech in which he described the bill as draconian and unprecedented in peacetime. Twenty-two years on, we know better. The PTA has become permanent. The powers of detention and questioning which were so unprecedented have now been written into the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. The accretion of powers - of which yesterday's package was the latest instalment - goes inexorably on. And in those 22 years has terrorism been prevented? Cue P O'Neill's latest bomb warning.

them, some of whom managed to combine their indignant concern for civil liberties in Britain with a lifelong blindness towards the achievements of the judicial system of the Soviet Union. But the fact remains that they were right on every count about the PTA. Like the equally-quickly rushed Official Secrets Act of 1911, another supposedly temporary measure, the PTA was built to last. It was a political gesture forced on a weak Labour government by the police and MI5 as part of a bigger agenda of their own devising - and it didn't prevent terrorism. Police failure is frequently the midwife of fresh police powers, but unfortunately police powers are rarely the midwife of police success. This is not a complete argument against police powers, which self-evidently have a necessary place. But it ought to encourage an appropriate modesty and reflection among those who urge them as the answer to all societal ills. The IRA bomber who went to heaven on a 171 bus in London's Aldwych earlier this year, like the IRA bombers who did the same thing to themselves in the doorway of Barclay's Bank in St Albans five years back, were what MI5 calls cleankins - terrorists with no terrorist record, bombers who were only detected when they lit the touch paper by mistake. The Prevention of Terrorism Act failed to prevent their terrorism. That, above all, is what is wrong with it.

Michael Howard had got them. When Labour had cringed once, they were committed to a policy of cringe

those who urge them as the answer to all societal ills. The IRA bomber who went to heaven on a 171 bus in London's Aldwych earlier this year, like the IRA bombers who did the same thing to themselves in the doorway of Barclay's Bank in St Albans five years back, were what MI5 calls cleankins - terrorists with no terrorist record, bombers who were only detected when they lit the touch paper by mistake. The Prevention of Terrorism Act failed to prevent their terrorism. That, above all, is what is wrong with it.

The pill men find hard to swallow



Francis Cottam

PICTURE the holidaying football hooligan on the brink of sexual conquest. He's got her overproof rum. He's got her to his room. He's got her on to the bed and out of most of her clothes. Then, his tumescence tackle poised under his beer gut, she hesitates: it's a one-night stand-off. He belches and whispers: "It's all right, love, I'm on the pill." Breathing a sigh of relief, she surrenders to their mutual passion.

ing even more of this unhappy hormone into our already tonsorially challenged lives? Well, no, actually. The male pill also threatens us with an increase in weight and the loss of muscle definition inevitable with a raised body fat percentage. Women who have for years been burdened by the added weight and water-retention problems that are side-effects of their pill might think there is an element of natural justice in all this. But a man who does 200 sit-ups a day to buff his stomach to washboard hardness will not welcome the change. Call me a pathetic narcissist, but I want to look like the bloke in the Calvin Klein ads - not Bob Hoskins in his "Good to Talk" guise. There is a serious psychological aspect to the subject of the male pill. The poet Benjamin Zephaniah has spoken movingly about the correlation between his male self-esteem and his own problem of infertility. Male self-image can be strongly linked to sexual potency. Will our evaluation of ourselves be diminished by a diminished sperm count? For some men the answer is clearly going to be yes. There are the men who play procrustean Russian roulette with the women in their lives because they feel a condom makes them unmanly. They are too selfish, too lacking in confidence, to take a male pill. Others, who will take it, are probably in for an unpleasant emotional surprise.

THE male pill clearly isn't for every man. At least, taking it isn't. Lying about it is easy. Half-way through a Benetton t-shirt, it could be lied about with the kind of glibly fluent expertise which men magically acquire after a surprisingly small quantity of strong lager. Taking it is something wholly different, infinitely trickier. Taking requires confidence, individuality, the capacity for negotiation in a relationship and - because of those potential side-effects - a good deal of self-sacrifice. And it won't be a fashionable thing to do. We are relying less - not more - on conventional medicine. Lets do something stereotypically male and reduce this polemic to the level of the car metaphor. The taker of the male pill is much more the classic auto enthusiast than the boy racer revving at the lights. At the wheel of his Citroen DS he may risk occasional derision and the threat of breakdown. But he has his own driving standards, his own lofty code of the road. He is never going to convert that supercharged cretin, itchy for red to turn to amber, poised behind his bull bars tapping the wheel and listening to Whitney. But frankly, he doesn't give a toss.

Francis Cottam is executive editor of Men's Health magazine



Semi-detached voters

Larry Elliott argues that the upward drift of house prices is too little, too late to woo disillusioned home-owners back into the Tory embrace

GOOD Friday is to estate agents what the Glorious Twelfth is to grouse-shooters. It's the big day of the year, the moment when eager home-hunters step off in the time-honoured British pursuit of bricks and mortar. The living rooms of Middle England will again be awash with the aroma of freshly ground coffee, some tasteful classical music will be played on the CD and the children's toys will be stuffed in the cupboard under the stairs.

bet has fostered a "something-for-nothing" culture in which the free at the house-price inflation are seen as a God-given right. Twice in the last 25 years Britain has been gripped by collective madness in which people have assumed that house prices can rise by 30 per cent a year without any detrimental side-effects on the rest of the economy. The grim recessions of 1974-5 and 1990-2 show that this is not only a dangerous fallacy but harms some of the most vulnerable members of society, not least the homeless. We should need no further lessons.

are simple: get prices up and buy some voters. They point out that in the 1980s, Margaret Thatcher did all she could for owner-occupiers. She defended their tax breaks from the rapacious clutches of the Treasury and made sure house prices kept going up in real (inflation-adjusted) terms. And the Government won elections. However, things are not quite that simple. Millions of people jumped on the housing bandwagon in the 1980s, but many of them should not have been encouraged to do so. They were spurred on by a fatal combination of fear and greed: fear of being left behind and greed for the free lunch that house-price inflation provided. Some of these people were simply suckered. They were not financially sophisticated, but were taken in by slick salesmen peddling endowment policies, and offered 100 per cent mortgages by lenders who should have known better. Seven or eight years on,

there are still more than a million households where the property is worth less than the outstanding mortgage. It is unlikely that these sufferers from negative equity will forgive the Government in a hurry. But negative equity only affects a minority of owner-occupiers. Conservative strategists might still think they could win by targeting voters who bought before the last months of the Lawson boom.

John Vidal puts price and value on the scales

REMEMBER eight years ago meeting a man who announced at the end of a meal that his house had appreciated £10,000 that week so he was going to borrow £25,000 to buy a Porsche. Someone else said he was getting a friend, a third that he owed £9,000 on his credit card. You could smell the self-satisfaction and greed around that table.

polls suggest that money has little to do with quality of life, but a lot to do with security - of place, work, family, health, history, even time. These are cultural issues that have been pushed out of the vocabulary of blinkered politicians, and governments seem fearful or just incompetent to address them.

So when your average politician argues in the next few months that we need house prices to leap in order to fuel a "growing" economy, beware: what he (inevitably) means is that he has absolutely no vision of how an economy could possibly be run without people being encouraged to buy more, eat more, import more, travel more, burn more, build more, consume more, inflate more. Destroy more.

Soil Association BRITISH AGRICULTURE: TIME TO CHANGE BSE is just one symptom of the breakdown of intensive agriculture. Consumers are desperate to find safe food for their families. ORGANIC FARMING No pesticides • no routine antibiotics and drugs • natural feeding systems • animal welfare. Organic farming can solve the crisis facing British agriculture. The SOIL ASSOCIATION has been fighting for organic food & farming for 50 years.



Battle talk... Brigadier Harvey (left) with military chiefs at Gabès Gap, Tunisia, in April 1943. IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

Roscoe Harvey

Horseman at war

BRIGADIER C B "Roscoe" Harvey who has died aged 85, interrupted his lifelong love affair with horses to serve as the British Army's most dashing frontline tank commander in the second world war...

time the survivors withdrew, the 8th Army was safely in position for the decisive attack on Rommel... He commanded the 4th Light Armoured and then the 8th Armoured brigades at Alamein...

Rosemary Say

Drama sense

ROSEMARY SAY, who has died aged 76, was a no-nonsense critic whose theatre diary, Show Talk in the Sunday Telegraph, and Queen magazine column were read from the 1950s into the 1970s...

posted to the embassy in Madrid supervising agents and meeting escaping airman at the French border... Prof Janet Bately, English scholar, 64; Tony Benn, MP, former Labour minister, 71; Marion Brande, actor, 72; Charlotte Coleman, actress, 28; Doris Day, actress and singer, 72; William G. Sumner, actor, 58; Hebraut Kohl, German Chancellor, 66; Jonathan Lynn, director, actor and author, 53; Eddie Murphy, actor, 38; Sir John Smith, CH, former MP, founder Landmark Trust, 78; Richard Thompson, rock guitarist and songwriter, 47; Sir Malcolm Rifkin, Conservative MP, 57; Prof Kathleen Tillotson, English scholar, 90; John Virgo, snooker player, 57; Sir Michael Woodruff, kidney transplant pioneer, 85.

Jeffrey Lee Pierce

Alternative American

THE death of Jeffrey Lee Pierce, leader of the Gun Club, is premature yet not altogether surprising. He died of a stroke aged 37, but Pierce had been wrestling with an alcohol problem for many years...



Pierce... modern blues

close to equalling it. They released a couple of dodgy live albums, Sex Bear 81 and The Birth, The Death, The Ghost, and Pierce made the unimpressive Death Party EP in New York in 1983 with a part-time Gun Club line-up...

Alistair Crombie

Science of the past

ALISTAIR Crombie, who has died aged 80, was one of the world's leading historians of science, focusing on the methods and modes of scientific thinking and reasoning as they developed within medieval and early modern Europe...



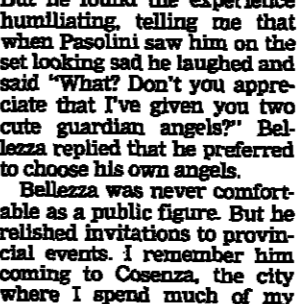
Crombie... invigorating

and change in the European scientific tradition. Awarded the Galileo Prize in 1964, Crombie became a leading authority on that figure. He died with Galileo's Arguments and Disputes in Natural Philosophy, and Martin Heisenberg's Science, Music and Art, unpublished. Long in the writing, they produced much invigorating controversy in the process...

Dario Bellezza

Dead poet's society

IN 1981 Dario Bellezza published a book about the life of the Italian poet Pier Paolo Pasolini. It distilled a lifetime of work, revealing Crombie's abiding interest in the history of theories of the senses and echoed his earlier work in biology and in particular the physiology and epistemology of vision and hearing...



Bellezza... chosen angel

But he found the experience humiliating, telling me that when Pasolini saw him on the set looking sad he laughed and said "What? Don't you appreciate that I've given you two cute guardian angels?" Bellezza replied that he preferred to choose his own angels...

Jackdaw



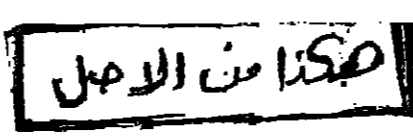
Book choice

WHEN WE FOUND [The Academy], seven years ago, we resolved membership should be restricted to writers whose work was judged of sufficiently high standard. Applicants were invited to submit their masterpiece to date, or at any rate the book of which they were most proud...

canal, and for 12 years I have conceived the communication of United Colors of Benetton. For a long time United Colors of Benetton has chosen to use a large part of its advertising budget to address the most dramatic problems of this century: AIDS, war, racism, intolerance... Today, we address ourselves to you because we sense that you know that communications can be a form of struggle. We ask you to give us an opportunity to photograph you with the men, women and children of your group, the Zapatista National Liberation Army...

and buildings — but not in a frame. Frames for us are associated with windows or mirrors — we expect to see views through them. Looking at an abstract painting for many people is like opening the curtains to find the world has become a swirl of meaningless colours. To understand abstraction we have to forget about the windows and mirrors. This is one reason why abstract artists like Bridget Riley do not put frames on their paintings... so that they confront you as if you are meeting someone rather than looking down at a painting you can see something. Art is made by people for people. Looking at a piece of art is like meeting a person. If you could not speak or write, how would you communicate? If you imagine as you go round this gallery that you are meeting people everywhere who cannot speak or write but are bursting to express what they have to say about their experience of the world, you will not go far wrong... Modern art has been developed in recent years in a bohouse, uncritical atmosphere. There has

been much criticism from outside of course, but this has been interpreted from within as acclaim! Many of the middle-men of modern art — the teachers, curators, critics — who are sustained by their own mini-economy, and sustained by public funding — have been constrained by the fear of getting it wrong... To have a genuine response requires courage — the courage of one's own convictions. The courageous Julian Spalding, Glasgow's Museums Director, sets out his mission statement for the city's new, much criticised Gallery of Modern Art in the Gallery's catalogue. The big O I REMEMBER my first orgasm vividly. I was six and jumping up and down on a mattress at a furniture store. As the corner of the mattress rubbed me in the right place, I went into spasms. Just at that moment, a big, manly salesclerk lifted me up, spun me above his head, and yelled "Airplane!" I had no idea what the hell was going on, but it does explain why I find myself developing crushes on pilots and mattress salesmen... There are many types of orgasms, including the "fusion orgasm"... and the "ESQ" (extended sexual orgasm). Other varieties of climax include the "slacker orgasm" ("I'll just lie here while you do all the work"), the "margarita orgasm" ("I think I climaxed but I can't remember"), and the "cin-o-rama".



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
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Finance Guardian

Northern Rock set to float

Chiff Jones
THE seismic shake-up in Britain's financial services sector was set to intensify last night with the Northern Rock Building Society poised to become the latest mutual institution to become a bank.

Robert Dickinson, Northern Rock's chairman, said at last night's AGM that the society should "seek to remain North-East based, independent and, as long as it remains in the interests of members in the longer term, a mutual society."

The society was the first to introduce a "loyalty scheme" for its members which was designed to promote the benefits of mutual values. In September 1995 it announced a 0.25 percentage point cut in its standard variable rate to all borrowers who had been with the society for seven years or more.

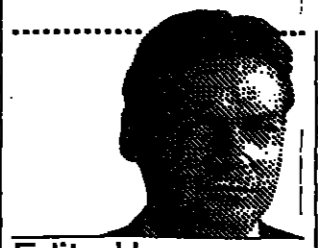
The society further curbed its growth by repeatedly extolling the virtues of mutualism. It more recently came under fire from the Building Societies Ombudsman, who ordered it not to penalise borrowers wishing to pay off their mortgage early.

The latest move follows a familiar path taken by larger societies and will come as good news to many Northern Rock savers and borrowers. "Carpetbaggers" who opened accounts with the Halifax before the crucial cut-off date will receive a pay-out of 2500 free shares when the society's shares begin trading on the Stock Exchange in early 1997.

Earlier this year, the Woolwich announced that it also would become a bank and the Alliance & Leicester followed suit three weeks later. The announcement will send speculative investors racing to the smaller societies, which have been seen more as takeover targets than

Notebook

Tell the truth or face the music



Edited by Patrick Donovan

THE Woolwich's cryptic statement about the departure of its high-profile chief executive poses far more questions than it answers. For Peter Robinson's resignation (if that is what it was) badly damages the credibility of Britain's third biggest building society at a critical period in its business.

Not only are public debt ratios across the EU at least 10 percentage points above the single currency benchmark of 60 per cent, but they will rise still further over the coming year. Worse still, average budget deficits stand at 4.7 per cent against the single currency target of 3 per cent. If single currency targets are to be met, the only way forward is drastic cuts in public spending. This will translate into swingeing job losses — at a time when Europe is already confronting record unemployment and economic slowdown.



Computer king Bill Gates puts his digit on work of Ansel Adams

MULTI-BILLIONAIRE Bill Gates has captured the digital rights to the published works of Ansel Adams, the American generally regarded as the century's leading fine-art photographer, writes Nicholas Bannister.

The deal, announced yesterday, is a triumph for Corbis, the private company set up by Mr Gates to build the world's foremost collection of digital images. Ansel Adams, who died 12 years ago, is the world's best-selling photographer. Bill Turnage, managing trustee of the Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust, said Corbis would have the exclusive digital rights to about 2,500 of his pictures.



Take that... Ansel Adams, captured below by fellow photographer Cedric Wright, took the classic Moon and Half Dome (right) in Yosemite Valley in 1960. Now the digital rights to 2,500 of his pictures have gone to Corbis



High investment drives Rover £148m into red

Chris Barrie
INVESTMENT in new cars and factories drove Rover into the red last year as its parent, the German company BMW, warned that it could not forecast when the UK firm would return to profit.

Rover's finances are likely to continue to suffer from depreciation charges while huge investment from BMW continues, as the Munich-based firm strives to reverse years of underdevelopment. Investment at Rover rose 31 per cent to DM1.2 billion, 8 per cent of turnover and the norm for BMW group companies. A BMW spokesman said Rover had invested just 3.5 per cent of turnover before its 1994 acquisition from British Aerospace.

BMW said that spending would remain high, although the burden on group finances should ease as Rover's operating performance improved. It accounted for 34 per cent of BMW investment last year alone. Rover is investing in a new small Land-Rover, replacements for the 600/800 series, and a new Mini for launch in the next three years. The company will also incur marketing charges as it launches sales campaigns in 20 new markets.

Tarmac set to axe 1,000 jobs after Wimpey asset swap

Tony May
TARMAC, the construction group which last month completed a 5500 million asset swap with housebuilder George Wimpey, is poised to see up to 1,000 jobs after predicting that the deal will bring more savings than at first thought.

Water on the brain as United donates £1m for research

Firm's 'madness' academic for 2,500 put out of work, reports Martyn Halsall

UNITED Utilities, the combined water and electricity firm that came under renewed fire last week for axing 2,500 jobs, is to donate £1 million to a university research project — on fulfilment at work.

transfer of technology from a university to a company guaranteed a ringside seat on contemporary research. It was uncertain yesterday whether the Manchester chair will bear the title of United Utilities, the UK's first multi-utility formed from North West Water's takeover of the regional electric company Norweb.

France and Germany decline to bid for Mercury

Nicholas Bannister Technology Editor
SHARES in British Telecom and Cable & Wireless came down with a bump yesterday after France Telecom and Deutsche Telekom said they were not interested in buying Mercury Communications.

The two British telecom groups have to find a firm buyer for Mercury before their merger deal. Both accept that BT would not be allowed to keep C&W's 80 per cent stake in Mercury and its 50 per cent stake in Mercury One-2-One, on monopoly grounds.

The huge rise in the companies' shares over the past week, C&W closed 9p down at 529p while BT ended the day 7p lower at 375.5p. Bruno Janet, a spokesman for France Telecom, poured cold water on suggestions that either of mainland Europe's leading telecom groups would make an offer for Mercury.

Money talk

THERE was always going to be a high and painful price to pay for European Monetary Union. But even the process's most ardent supporters must feel a deep sense of foreboding in the light of yesterday's report from the European Monetary Institute.

For the EMI, the forerunner of the European Central Bank, is effectively warning that currency union will lead to a huge surge in unemployment. Its message is primarily directed at Germany, which is leading the way for a "fast track" group of EU countries trying to link up into a single currency in three years' time. Significantly, the EMI remains confident that the process will be ready to come

Airbus plans 'superjumbo' — with a Big Mac to follow

Keith Harper
PLANS for a new European "superjumbo" capable of carrying up to 600 passengers and rivaling Boeing's jumbos were announced yesterday by Airbus Industrie, the four-nation consortium behind a project which would cost at least £6 billion.

that the decision represented a new stage in its strategy "to meet all the demands of the market for large, civilian carriers." He also forecast a market of more than 1,300 large carrier planes within 20 years, worth around £200 billion. British Airways, which has already expressed an interest in the project, added colour to the announcement yesterday by speculating that, with more room on board, it might be possible to install a fast food outlet such as McDonald's. "Fast food in faster aircraft would keep a lot of people happy," it said.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.853	France 7.49	Italy 2.244	Singapore 2.925
Austria 13.27	Germany 2.18	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 5.37
Belgium 44.88	Greece 339.89	Netherlands 2.45	Spain 133.75
Canada 2.013	Hong Kong 11.58	New Zealand 2.1675	Sweden 8.985
Cyprus 0.8775	India 51.93	Norway 8.33	Switzerland 1.733
Denmark 6.48	Ireland 0.84	Portugal 227.50	Switzerland 1.733
Finland 8.985	Israel 4.74	Saudi Arabia 5.95	Switzerland 1.733

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Pain before a single currency, says EMI

Ian Traynor in Frankfurt

COUNTRIES hoping to join a single European currency in three years' time face tough public spending cuts, fiscal tightening and reduced social security spending, the head of the European Monetary Institute warned yesterday.

This is despite record unemployment levels and economic slowdown across the European Union. Presenting the annual report of the Frankfurt-based EMI, forerunner of the European Central Bank, Baron Alexandre Lamfalussy said there was a "reasonably high probability that the single currency will start in 1999. The road leading to that situation will be a bumpy road and the choices to be made won't be easy."

"Fiscal, budgetary, and social security policies require very difficult decisions from the governments." On the simmering row between EU members over how to define the relationship between those qualifying for and opting to join a single currency and those EU members left outside, Baron Lamfalussy said the EMI yesterday agreed on proposals he would put to EU finance ministers and central bankers in Verona, Italy, next week.

Germany and France are pushing for a tied relationship between the Euro-club and those outside the single currency, through a revamped exchange rate mechanism, but Britain is opposed to this.

Mr Lamfalussy said a settlement of the issue was crucial and that the "no-outs dilemma" could become a very difficult problem to handle. "The main challenge for the EU is fiscal consolidation. Public finances are the weakest point of convergence."

Despite austerity measures designed to meet the criteria

for public debt and budget deficits, to pass the single currency test, public debt ratios across the EU rose last year to an average of more than 70 per cent of gross domestic product, well above the single currency benchmark of 60 per cent, the EMI noted. It predicted debt ratio levels this year of 72 per cent. More ominously for a successful launch of the single currency on schedule at the beginning of 1999, average budget deficits last year stood at 4.7 per cent, more than 50 per cent above the criterion of 3 per cent.

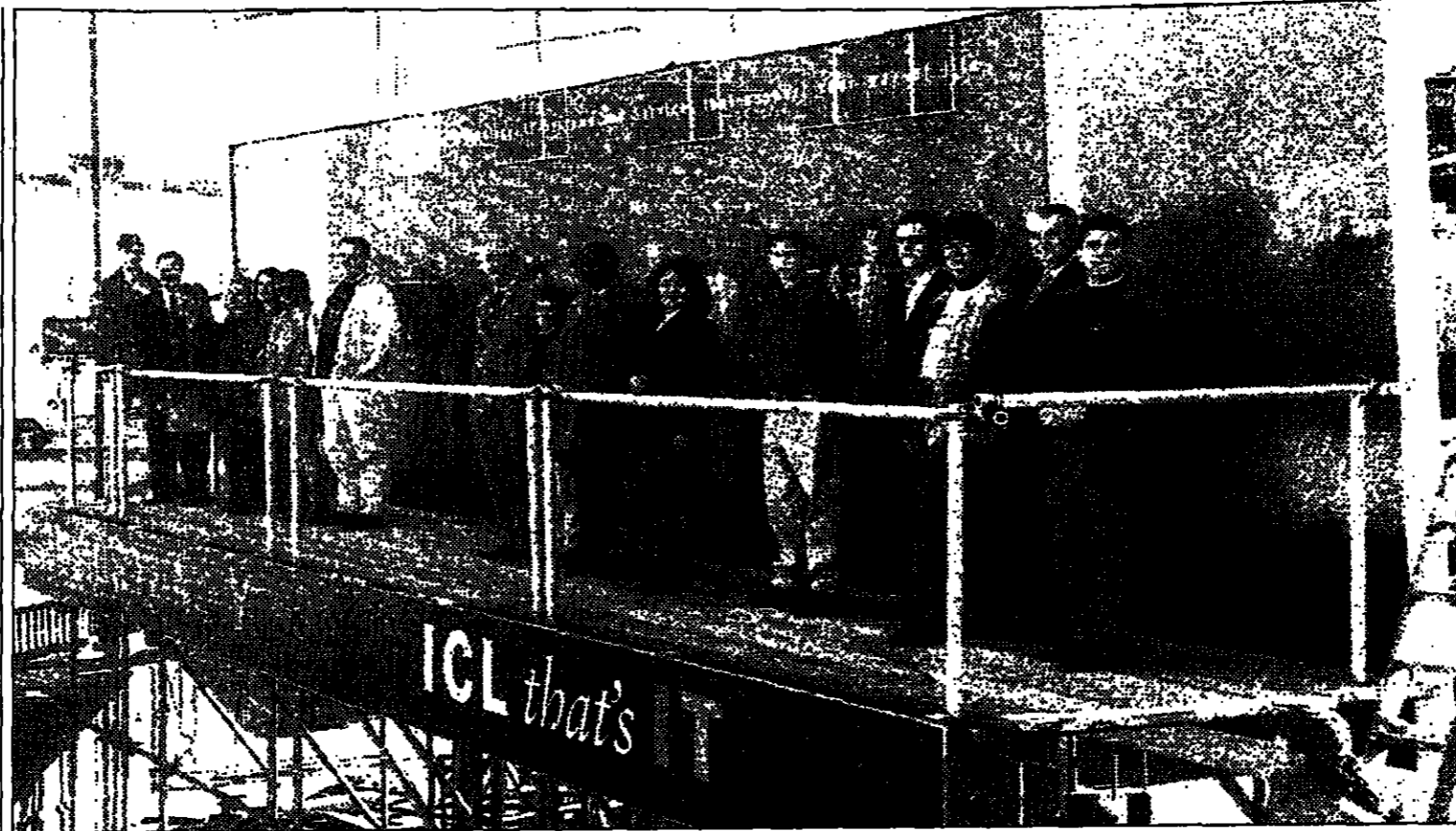
The EMI forecast deficit levels this year of an average 3.8 per cent, but warned that the key European economy, Germany, could record a worse deficit, raising more doubts about Germany's ability to qualify for a project of which it is the most ardent advocate.

The EMI urged fast-track austerity programmes, arguing that "a strategy of too gradual improvements in fiscal policies stretched over a longer period of time risks failing to gain credibility."

"The year 1996 will be of crucial importance in paving the way towards monetary union," the report added. "The resolute continuation of appropriate economic policies is a sine qua non for achieving further progress towards sustainable convergence."

"It is important not to postpone structural measures, particularly in the field of public finances." Despite two consecutive quarters of falling GDP in Germany, the EMI dismissed talk of a new EU-wide recession, preferring to adopt the German government's characterisation of a "pause in growth."

Four months ago, the younger members of the Moores clan had made it clear that they were prepared to sell the business to the highest bidder. Their dissatisfaction encouraged at least three publicly announced takeover approaches — most noticeably from a former Littlewoods chief executive, Barry Dale.



Live and posing... Some of those who have taken part in an ICL Cyberskills course swap the information superhighway for a spot by London's busy Cromwell Road to advertise the benefits of new technology by standing in front of their own pictures as part of a living poster. PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Moores pin hopes on revamping stores

Patrick Donovan

WHATEVER the real story behind the Littlewoods shareholders' revolt, the 32 family members who control the £1 billion stores group appear to have buried their differences and rallied behind the incumbent management.

Four months ago, the younger members of the Moores clan had made it clear that they were prepared to sell the business to the highest bidder. Their dissatisfaction encouraged at least three publicly announced takeover approaches — most noticeably from a former Littlewoods chief executive, Barry Dale.

For all the bluster, the family voted resoundingly to keep the group in private hands at last December's extraordinary General Meeting.

There have been no further approaches since then. Littlewoods managers said yesterday. Nor have even the most cash-strapped — a relative term when it comes to the Moores — expressed interest in selling any shares from a special pool set up to allow family members to realise some of their assets.

Instead, the family appears to be pinning its hopes on a restructuring aimed at transforming the business over the next five years. That should be quite a task judging by the announcement of a 16 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £97.3 million for the year to December 31. Stripping out exceptional gains of £18.5 million from property and other business sales, the overall operating profits are even less impressive, down from £107.6 million to £77.7 million.

Littlewoods' problems are two-fold. First, its leisure operations, which includes pools and spa centres, has been hammered by competition from the National Lottery.

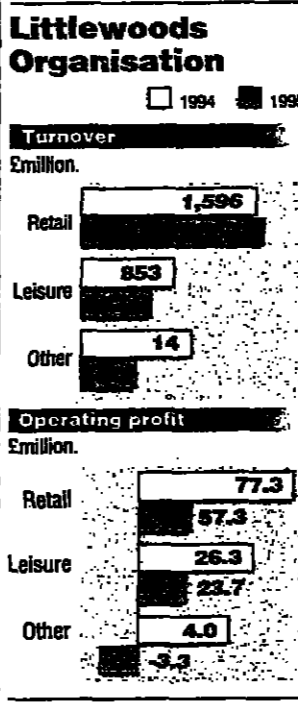
Sales were down by around 35 per cent at the year-end, operating profits from £26.3 million to £33.7 million. And the downturn looks set to continue for the foreseeable future, says group chief executive Bill Huntley — despite moves to expand its National Charity scratchcard.

Second, there is little to impress within the retail division, which includes the main stores group and the Littlewoods Home Shopping empire. Sales have risen by a creditable 4.7 per cent, with Littlewoods managing to increase its share of a depressed market. The division's operating profits have fallen from £71.3 million to £57.3 million, largely reflecting the sharp increase in bad debt that now accounts for around 5 per cent of all sales from home shopping. The company attributes this to hard-pressed households finding it difficult to pay their bills. But it also reflects badly on Littlewoods' management controls. Mr Huntley admits checks on

customers are being tightened.

On their own account, the main stores have seen operating profits fall from £24.5 million to £17.9 million, with the business suffering from low consumer confidence. At the separate Index catalogue shopping chain, losses at the operating level have grown slightly to £7.3 million. Mr Huntley's remedy lies in the £31 million provision put aside for restructuring costs to help turn the retail operations around. He insists that the company is just one year into a "transformation" that will reap significant profit growth within five years.

The question remains why it took the threat of a family revolt for the management to take action on a deteriorating performance. Littlewoods has yet to prove the case that it can thrive as a privately-run family company. And that's an important issue not just for its employees but the whole of Merseyside.



Don who found secret Italy

JOHN HOOPER in Rome meets the man who put the 'sorpasso' in the punditry

FOR a man who dealt perhaps the heaviest blow to British self-esteem since Dunkirk, Professor Guido Rey has a disconcertingly British air.

From the top of his horn-rimmed spectacles to the tip of his brogues, he looks like an Oxbridge don.

Professor Rey is nowadays responsible for introducing computers into the Italian administration. But his fame stems from when he was president of the national statistical office, Istat.

In 1987, it was he who decided to include an estimate for the hidden economy in Italy's output figures. The effect was dramatic. It sent his country's GDP per capita soaring past Britain's and enabled Italian commentators to celebrate gleefully over what they dubbed the sorpasso, or overtaking.

In his office near the Villa Borghese, Professor Rey said it all began with the 1981 census. "One could see, for example, that there were houses — a not inconsiderable number of houses — which, according to the production statistics, had never been built."

Construction, together with road distribution, is reckoned to be the most flourishing sector in what Italians term the *economia sommersa*, or submerg economy. This is usually held to include not only activity which is unrecorded, but also that which is illegal.

Nine years ago, Professor Rey and his colleagues came to the conclusion that what they dubbed "irregular activity" (ie the non-criminal part of the submerged economy) accounted for 16 per cent of total production. A fresh calculation is being made now on the basis of detailed returns from the 1991 census.

Professor Rey said it was impossible to know whether Italians had created a bigger or smaller hidden economy than in other countries "because we're the only ones who've had the courage to bring it out into the open". He neverthless agreed that the Italian economy was unusually fragmented and that having a large proportion of small businesses seemed to be conducive to a high level of hidden activity. But why such fragmentation?

"There are any number of possible reasons," said Pro-



essor Rey. "There has been a high level of unemployment. When people cannot get regular jobs they find something else to do. There is the supposed reluctance of Italians to be regimented. It is, if you like, the extension of a peasant society."

But more important, he thought, was to view the problem from the opposite end and ask why so few big firms had emerged in Italy.

There was a legislative framework inimical to big business, which was partly the result of almost half a century of leadership by Christian Democrats, who aimed at promoting the family.

There was a financial structure that was good at giving birth to new firms but poor at ensuring they survived. Then there was the failure of big firms themselves to remain free of bureaucracy.

Three years ago, Professor Rey lamented that the main effect of his decision had been "sterile and somewhat idiosyncratic controversy" over Italy's place on the GDP-per-capita totem pole. He stressed that it should have prompted a thorough re-think.

Politicians had failed to grasp that the size of Italy's hidden economy was at the root of budget problems, and also affected monetary policy. "What we have is a tax system that only affects the non-hidden economy, but which has to support a system of social security that covers both the hidden and the non-hidden parts," he said.

"The growth of money is matched to the growth of the official economy. But money is also needed for the unofficial economy. So what do you get? A relative shortage of money which, in turn, can have a deflationary effect on the economy as a whole."

Tomorrow: Failed by design

News in brief

Granada channels media into one act

GRANADA confirmed plans yesterday to form a new division, Granada Media Group, to manage its television and other media interests. The division will be chaired by Charles Allen, who said it would be an organisation within which new acquisitions could be fitted and one which would develop businesses outside the ITV network.

Granada is expected to launch its own national pay television channel this autumn and to snap up rival ITV group Yorkshire Tyne-Tees when regulations permit. — Ian King

£1m more for Zeneca chiefs

BOARDROOM pay has jumped £1 million at science group Zeneca where profits slipped £40 million to £819 million last year. The latest accounts of the UK's third biggest pharmaceuticals company show that the board collected £3.19 million in pay, bonuses and pension payments, compared with £2.16 million a year ago.

The pay rise — shared among the group's five executive directors — was boosted by a £460,000 payment to Tony Rodgers on the loss of his job as executive director responsible for human resources and public affairs.

Sir Denis Henderson, who retired as chairman in May 1995 and left the company altogether last September, received £288,000 in the year, down from £342,000. Sir Sydney Lipworth, his successor as chairman, saw his pay jump from £3,000 to £71,000. The biggest rise — 33 per cent to £551,000 — went to David Barnes, the chief executive. — Tony May

UK world trade share down

BRITAIN will need to boost exports by £40 billion a year by the year 2000 just to prevent its share of world trade declining further, says the National Audit Office in a report published today. The country's share of global trade has declined by 6 per cent — from 3.2 per cent to 4.9 per cent — over the last five years as the "tiger economies" take a larger share. The report by Parliament's financial watchdog praises the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry for trying to reverse this trend in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Indonesia by promoting British companies to gain £245 million in orders. — David Henke

Names reject £2.8bn offer

LLOYD'S of London's £2.8 billion out-of-court settlement offer to disgruntled investors has been rejected by nearly two-thirds of the 1,600-odd Gooda Walker Action Group, one of the largest and most influential groups of Names. Votes are still being returned, but action-group chairman Michael Deeny said: "There is a clear majority against the offer." It is thought the Lloyd's governing body is holding a series of meetings to persuade auditors to join in the settlement rather than face court action by Names. A figure of £150 million has been suggested as the auditors' contribution, were such a sum to be offered, the settlement would top £2 billion.

The Gooda Walker vote is based on the £2.8 billion figure. Mr Deeny said: "The litigating Names are being offered much less than they can recover through the courts. The litigation settlement fund must be increased." — Dan Atkinson

Liberty heads for shake-up

THE Liberty store group, known for its prints and fabrics, warned that profits would be down from £3.6 million to £2.1 million for 1995-96 and announced plans for a radical overhaul. Patrick Austen resigned as chief executive and director and named his replacement as Ian Thomson, a former director of retailer Sears. Chairman Denis Cassidy said a strategic review would revitalise the Liberty brand internationally and develop retailing at its Regent Street store. The accounts would bear a charge for "substantial exceptional provisions". Recent years have seen attempts to modernise Liberty, which was founded as a family business in 1875 and until a year ago still had members of the family on the board. Shares in the company fell 28p to 275p after the group said it did not intend paying a final dividend, but recovered to 300p. — Tony May

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Our semiconductor technology is the common thread. With it, we unlock the doors that make innovation possible. At Samsung, we don't believe in final frontiers. Only new doors to open.

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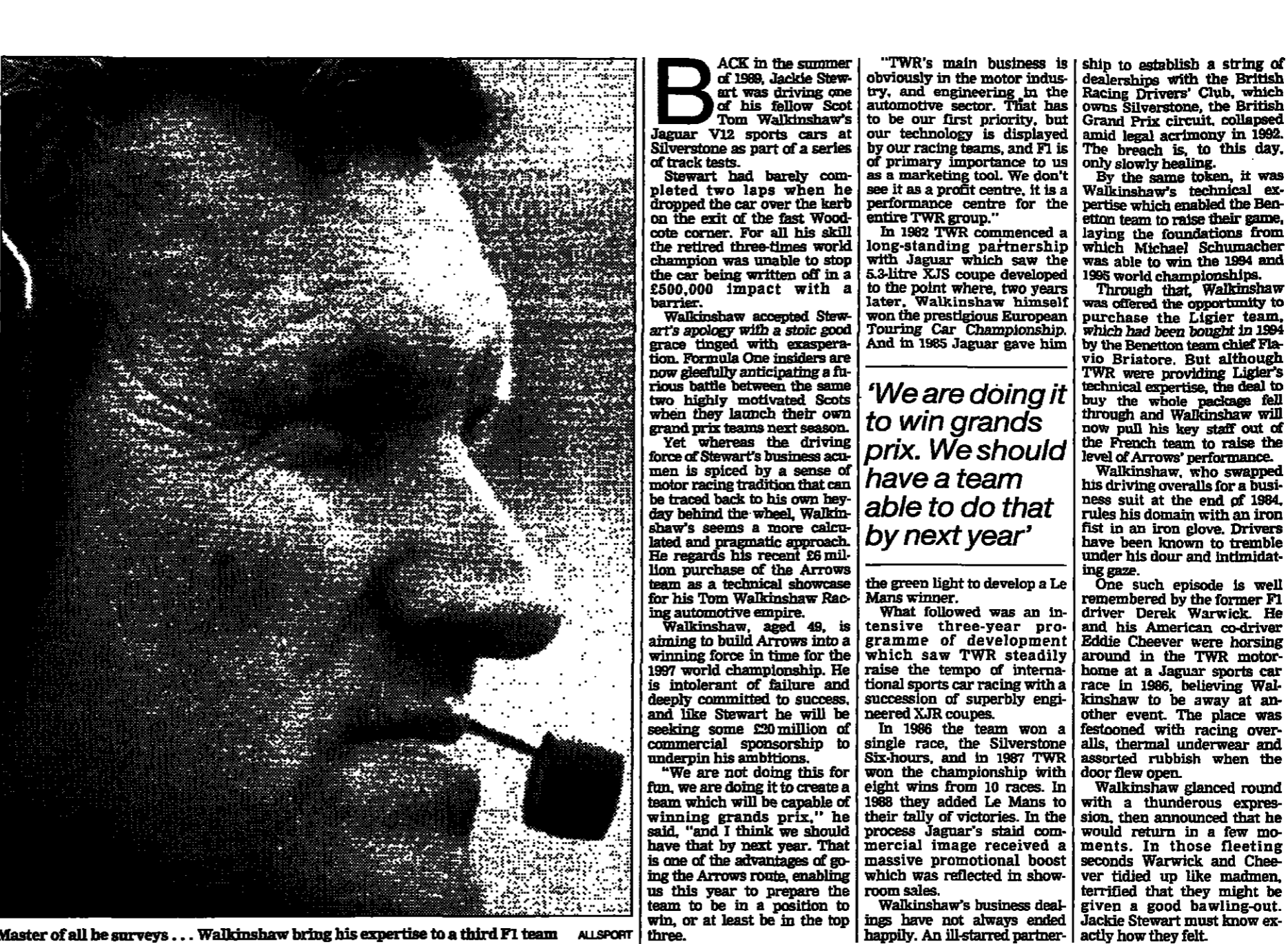
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Racing Star Rage a work-horse flat or jumps

Ken Oliver
IF HORSES had to pass MOT tests after so many races, Star Rage would have more certificates than most of his rivals. With 17 Flat outings on the clock since last June, Jimmy Harris's gelding runs for the tenth time this fortnight, a season at Ascot today and this amazing six-year-old shows little wear and tear. His most recent run was at Aintree last Saturday when, heavily backed, he finished third, and strongly, Stompin' Stompin'. "Richard (Dunwoody) said they did not go fast enough for him," explained Harris after the race. "But for that he would have won."

Motor Racing

Alan Henry on a Scot who laid the foundations for Benetton's back-to-back world titles and wants to do the same for his own team



Master of all he surveys... Walkinshaw bring his expertise to a third F1 team

Motor Racing

Alan Henry on a Scot who laid the foundations for Benetton's back-to-back world titles and wants to do the same for his own team. Walkinshaw brought his expertise to a third F1 team. He is a former F1 driver and has worked for Benetton and Williams. He is now running his own team, Walkinshaw Racing. He is a former F1 driver and has worked for Benetton and Williams. He is now running his own team, Walkinshaw Racing.

Ludlow (N.H.)

2.15 Paveletto 3.50 Tringrains
2.45 Marlow Dream 4.40 Jem Barlow
2.30 Larry's Lord 4.50 Oaklands Ward
2.55 Who You Want
2.15 Paveletto 3.50 Tringrains
2.45 Marlow Dream 4.40 Jem Barlow
2.30 Larry's Lord 4.50 Oaklands Ward
2.55 Who You Want

Hamilton

4.00 Clarendon 4.30 Clarendon Kid
4.30 Clarendon 4.30 Clarendon Kid
4.30 Clarendon 4.30 Clarendon Kid
4.30 Clarendon 4.30 Clarendon Kid

Ascot National Hunt card with TV form

1.55 Mircowall 2.30 Jeffers
2.00 Curyphong 2.10 Win The Year
1.55 Mircowall 2.30 Jeffers
2.00 Curyphong 2.10 Win The Year

BBC-1

2.30 FAIRWAY NEW HONEY ROVERSEY CHASE 2m 110yds C1, C2, C3
2.30 FAIRWAY NEW HONEY ROVERSEY CHASE 2m 110yds C1, C2, C3
2.30 FAIRWAY NEW HONEY ROVERSEY CHASE 2m 110yds C1, C2, C3

Results

FOLKSTONE
2.40 (1st) 110yds H. SEN DARTLE, D
2.40 (1st) 110yds H. SEN DARTLE, D
2.40 (1st) 110yds H. SEN DARTLE, D

Blinkered today for the first time: HAMILTON: 2.25 Castel

2.25 Castel
2.25 Castel
2.25 Castel
2.25 Castel

Haggas tonic

WILLIAM HAGGAS, the Newmarket trainer, landed a 16-1 double at Nottingham yesterday with the heavily backed Splicing and Shu Gaa. Haggas was not at the course to welcome his winners, but he was at home nursing the flu.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring a horse and jockey, with text 'RACELINE COMMENTARY 0930 1681' and a list of race results.

Soccer

New injury setback for Anderton

Martin Thorpe

TOTTENHAM's England winger Darren Anderton has suffered a further setback in his quest to play in this summer's European Championship...



Valley of despair... Shaun Newton and Charlton could find no way through against Leicester

First Division

Crystal Palace 2, Port Vale 2

Vale find Foyle for Freedman

Robert Pryce

CRYSTAL PALACE showed they have more ability than most in this division but found out that class does not always tell. After taking a 2-0 lead they somehow gave away two second-half goals...

Charlton 0, Leicester City 1

Claridge shows true worth

Martin Thorpe

AFTER a weekend of turmoil, Leicester answered their critics by putting themselves back in the play-off frame last night. Charlton's own promotion ambitions could have done without their first defeat in five league games...

Peterson for his first Leicester goal since his £1.2 million move from Birmingham.

Charlton might point out to those disgruntled Leicester fans that £1.2 million is quite an investment. Charlton's transfer deadline-day purchase of the QPR striker Bradley Ashton for £400,000 doubled their average transfer outlay for the previous four years.

Angry Thomas holds out on deal

Michael Thomas

MICHAEL Thomas, angry at being left out of Liverpool's team for the FA Cup semi-final against Aston Villa, is refusing to sign a contract.

West Bromwich Albion 0, Luton Town 2

Hatters stung into winning action

Tom Evans

LONG-suffering West Bromwich Albion fans may have feared the worst when they spotted the name R Gould in the match-day programme. Whether the linesman's is one and the same as the current Welsh manager who took Albion to the Second Division five years ago is unclear.

showed their efforts for the remainder of the half.

Despite the introduction of Kevin Donovan, the game had been crying out for width. Albion failed to prosper and on the hour their striker Bob Cooper finished with aplomb.

Sport in brief

Chess

The 21-year-old Bulgarian Veselin Topalov shared the Amsterdam Grandmasters first prize with the world No. 1 Garry Kasparov when both won their concluding games, writes Leonard Barden.

Hockey

Next week's pre-Olympic tournament goes ahead for Britain's men as the rains in the belated relaying of the venue pitch at Morris Rowley University, writes Pat Rowley.

Results

Soccer

ENDSLEIGH LEAGUE

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for First Division, Second Division, and Third Division.

Third Division

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for various Third Division matches.

Tennis

FAMILY CIRCLE MAGAZINE CUP

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for Family Circle Magazine Cup matches.

Badminton

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for badminton matches.

Cricket

SURREY SHIELD

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for Surrey Shield matches.

Ice Hockey

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for ice hockey matches.

Snooker

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for snooker matches.

Squash

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes results for squash matches.

Anfield to test Newcastle's title resolve

Cynthia Bateman on reasons not to turn back the clock

WHILE Jack Charlton was waiting for a train at Newcastle recently he was continually approached by Newcastle United supporters seeking reassurance. "We will win the championship, won't we Jack?" they asked, clutching the Tyneside legend's arm.

Four points from a possible 16 has seen that advantage drastically altered to a three-point deficit, but Newcastle still have two games in hand on Manchester United.

Second Division

Chesterfield 1, Blackpool 0

Blackpool pulled up short by Holland's super strike

BLACKPOOL's roller-coaster left the track last night, their second league reversal in 27 outings slightly denting rather than damaging the club's hopes of promotion.

Teamtalk: The Independent News and Reports Service. Call 0891 33 77+. Includes a list of sports news items and contact information.

Rugby League: Includes results for various rugby league matches and fixtures.

Fixtures: A list of upcoming sports events across various disciplines.

Rugby Union: Includes results for various rugby union matches and fixtures.

back... diff flo... market...

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: صكرا من الال

صدا من الامل

Rugby Union

Twin backing for Cardiff flotation

David Plummer

CARDIFF have been given permission by the Welsh Rugby Union to become a public limited company...

we will not be making a decision until the end of the month. No Welsh club has gone down the plc road...

tional half-backs, Adrian Davies and Andy Moore, to Richmond. Ironically, Cardiff's chief executive is visiting Richmond today...

Clubs step uneasily into market-place

Robert Armstrong on the can of worms that will be opened in England next month when a transfer system begins operating

ENGLISH club rugby is little more than a month away from a state of ferment. On May 7, three days after the country's leading sides Leicester and Bath meet...

theoretical valuation on each member of the England squad which saw Johnson head the list at £200,000, Will Carling £100,000 and Ben Clarke a surprisingly modest £50,000.

receives less for a player by excluding him from a share of the fee than it would if all the cards were placed on the table at the start of negotiations.



Frozen smile... Desmond Haynes is relishing the challenge of coaching a county who have never won the championship

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Sussex quickly warm to Haynes

Paul Weaver sees the under-achieving county welcome their new coach to Hove

CRICKET in April has always been Michael Fish's little joke, and at the Sussex County Ground yesterday, as a breeze knifed in from the Ukraine, Desmond Haynes, cold and bewildered, rather resembled one of those misdirected pieces of luggage that have set off for Bridgetown with good intention and ended up in Brighton.

over the country. England, in England, are still difficult to beat but they must be more consistent with their selections.

players, was totally converted and is still effusively grateful for the help Haynes gave him. As a player Haynes was a key factor in the county's championship win the next year when he scored 2,036 runs in the competition, and again when they won the title in 1993.

England last year. "There are still one or two issues in the pipeline," he says with a mysterious smile.

Caddick finds new spring in his step

David Foot on a resurgence of spirit in Somerset

SURELY you remember Andy Caddick: it was not so long ago that he arrived at Taunton, a towering beanie of a fast bowler from New Zealand.

not think much of the way New Zealand had nurtured him, and his ambition was to play for England instead.

month remedial programme of road-work, swimming, rowing, specific exercises and daily challenges on the treadmill.

Irish offered £44,000 to stay

Karl Johnston

IN A move as swift as it was unexpected, the Irish Rugby Football Union has announced a plan designed to keep its top players at home next season by making them offers they should find difficult to refuse.

Poplewell and Jonathan Bell, and several others have been approached by English clubs, notably Paul Wallace, Anthony Foley, Eddie Halvey, David Corkery and Neil Francis.

ment for appearing in the Heineken European Cup. But a contracted player who also made the national squad next season could realistically expect to make about £44,000.

Rugby League Orrell join hunt for Botica

Ian Maflin

FRANCO BOTICA, the former All Black, is set to become the first Super League player to sign for a rugby union club.

Peter Williams said last night: "We're hoping that factor might persuade him to join us. We have offered Franco a substantial package. He's got a magnificent track record and would be just the man to bring on some of our younger players."

Squash Nicol falls at the first again

Richard Jago in Cardiff

THE hoodoo that has seen the national champion Peter Nicol fail to win one match at the British Open emerged again yesterday as the young Scot fell at the first hurdle for the fourth successive year.

Nicol had a five-point lead in the fifth game with Johnson apparently firing. "I certainly thought I had got out of it," he said.

across court, late, and then he was flapping at it," said the 23-year-old former British junior champion from Eitham who thus made Jansher's task easier in the top of the draw.

Snooker Higgins eases his name back into the frame

Clive Everton in Plymouth

JOHN HIGGINS, the winner of two of this season's eight ranking events but only two matches in his last three tournaments, yesterday got a desperately needed confidence-boost while defending his British Open title.

making too many unforced errors in a 5-1 win that puts him into the last 32.

in that quality and is currently enjoying his best season since winning the 1981 world and UK titles.

Tennis Time for Maleeva to enjoy twin celebration

MAGDALENA MALEEVA marked her 21st birthday with a patient victory as the US clay-court season started with the Family Circle Cup at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Her tactic of slowing down play and waiting for chances to attack paid off, especially in the first set.

Maleeva clearly intended to celebrate her birthday without worrying about her age in a South Carolina bar.

The man who bought an F1 team, page 13
New home for Desmond Haynes, page 15

Another setback for Darren Anderton, page 14
Cardiff rugby club goes public, page 15

Sports Guardian

BOAT RACE COUNTDOWN: OXFORD LEAVE THE OLD BLUES TRAILING



Seniors in the slipstream... Oxford's Old Blues, pictured here at Hammersmith Bridge, were second best to the Boat Race crew yesterday, writes Christopher Dodd. The Old Blues, with the Olympic and world champions Jonny Searle (No. 5) and Matthew Pinsent (No. 6), were trounced in a three-minute dash from below Barnes Bridge to Chiswick on the evening ebb. The Boat Race crew maintained a high rating on the outside of the bend and were a length ahead when the boats stopped. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Freddie's luck defies all but virtual reality



Vincent Hanna

LET no one tell you that golf is fun — not real golf. Golf is about misery, bondage, and humiliation. Golf is the siren who turns your head, then runs off with your accountant. I have suffered. I missed a two by a whisker at the 17th in the Players Championship at Sawgrass at the weekend, otherwise I'd have been in contention. Not only that, Colin Montgomerie would have won if he had listened to my advice. You think I'm joking. Wipe that smirk off your face and pay attention. In 1978 Deane Beman, the then United States golf commissioner, bought a swamp at Ponte Vedra near Jacksonville for \$1. He moved the PGA Tour there and hired Pete Dye — the Torquemada of golf architects — to build Sawgrass. Since 1982 it has hosted the Players Championship. Sawgrass offers spectators a wonderful view of great shots and fiendish suffering. There is water everywhere, with trees and swamps. Alligators frolic in the bunkers. At the 17th you pitch 137 yards on to a minute island. Easy enough (it says here) when it is calm; unplayable when breezy. But as Pete says: "Golf is not meant to be fair. Why not drive the players a little crazy?"

pro mode it is a great challenge. It makes visits to the shed seem almost energetic. On Sunday I placed the computer beside the television, duplicated the conditions (rain and overcast) and played the last round against Couples and Montgomerie. Come with me to the 16th hole, 497 yards with a narrow green bordered on three sides by water. Couples is on the tee, he is 15 under par. Behind him are Montgomerie and Toller both on 16 under. Our drives draw round the palm trees to the left centre of the fairway. I hit a four-wood to the fringe. Couples fades a two-iron at the centre of the green. He overdoes it and the ball slides towards the lake on the right. "I thought it was in the water for sure," he said later. Then the ball kicks off the very edge of the bank and jumps backwards to the fringe. "Luck," Walter Hagen remarked, "is the residue of careful planning." Which it may be, unless it's a sheer bloody fluke. The same thing had happened to Couples at the 11th at Augusta when he won the Masters in 1952. He just shrugs, looks to heaven, and holes the 25-foot putt for an eagle. I take four, then miss a long putt at the 17th. Freddie sinks another one for a two. He is 18 under par. Beat that Monty. Colin's drive at 16 is to the right of Freddie's, 234 yards to the flag. "I heard the roar for Freddie's eagle and knew I had to go for the shot," he said later. Using his cut-down three-wood he too hits a high fade. Like Couples it is too far right. But he lands in the water. And the tournament was over.

Bruno still hoping to fight Lewis again

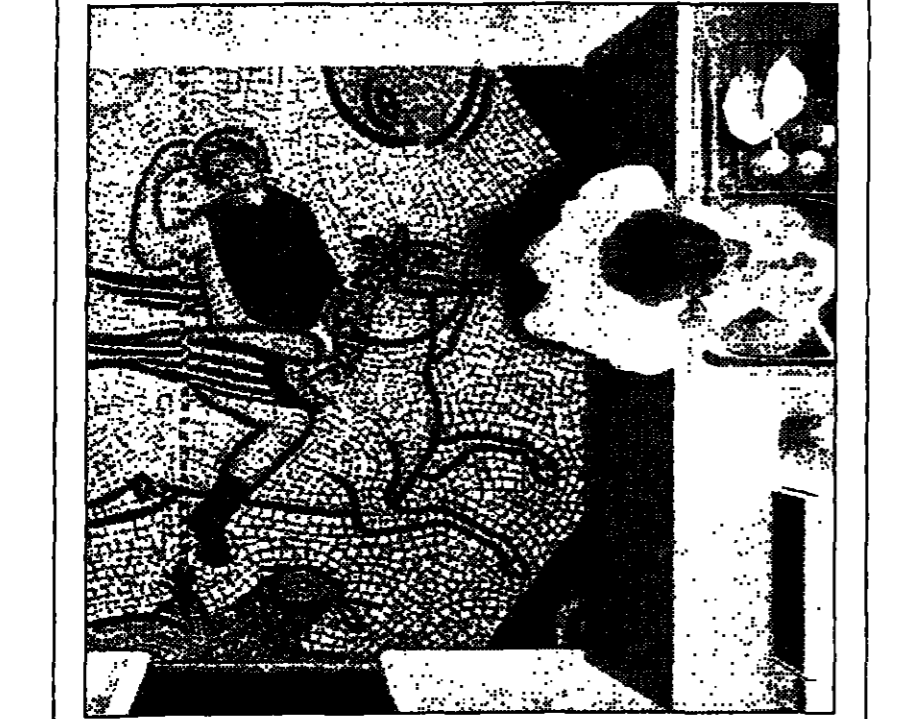
Kevin Mitchell on the possibility of a grudge fight that keeps Britain's best-loved heavyweight dithering about his retirement

FRANK BRUNO yesterday indicated that a return fight with Lennox Lewis might persuade him to extend his career beyond his 35th birthday in November. It was a challenge not immediately greeted with enthusiasm by Lewis's financial backer Panos Eliades, who responded: "How many chances does this man want?" It is a spreading sentiment in the business. When Bruno lost his World Boxing Council heavyweight title to Mike Ty-

nised. "How I'm going to keep myself occupied, what I'm going to do when I get up in the morning". He would, he said, discuss it with his wife and manager Laura, and added: "Obviously no wife wants to see her husband beaten up." Bruno said he had been in no position to accept a previous offer of \$9 million from Eliades to fight Lewis because he had signed for the Tyson fight before he beat Oliver McCall last September. "Now, however, I would love to fight Lewis," he said. "I would have liked to defend my title against him. At the end of the day it would have been a bigger-money fight against Tyson, but I had to fight Tyson. But I would still love to fight Lennox Lewis. I got a sort of grudge against him. It started from when he came over from Canada."

Eliades says the only opportunity for a fight is if Tyson relinquishes his WBC title to avoid fighting Lewis. "Then the WBC would order the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders to fight for the vacant title." The WBC releases its new rankings next week. With Tyson as champion, Lewis will remain at No. 1 and Bruno will be slotted in somewhere in the top five, perhaps behind Britain's Henry Akkinwande (currently No. 3) and McCall, both of whom have remained active. Las Vegas, Bruno revealed, had been a "nightmare" as he was receiving visits from Lewis's people while preparing for Tyson and there were several other "obstacles", although none on which he would elaborate. He denied being "terrified" against Tyson. "I was focused," he said. "I'm not ter-

rified of nobody. There's one man I'm terrified of, God. If I wouldn't go in the ring, when you go into the ring with a man like Mike Tyson and you get caught early on and then cut, it doesn't really help you. "I didn't want to go in there and be scared and embarrassed myself. I could have done a lot better but he beat me fair and square and there's no crying and no moaning about that." Asked how much more punishment he was prepared to endure in the ring, Bruno said: "I don't know. You take as much of a hammering as you want, but it's how much you want to take the hammering, how much you want to put your mind through whatever you need to go through." Few would accept that the need justifies the means for much longer.



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Sri Lanka back on the rampage

Neil Robinson

SRI LANKA continued their assault on cricket's status quo yesterday by rewriting a raft of international one-day records in the unlikely outpost of Singapore. Sanath Jayasuriya led the charge by hitting the fastest one-day international century from 49 balls in a Singer Cup match against Pakistan. The previous record of 62 balls was set by India's Mohammad Azharuddin. The diminutive opener, who starred in Sri Lanka's recent World Cup victory, was eventually out for 134 off 65 balls. His 11 sixes, many of which soared out of the compact Padang ground, broke Gordon Greenidge's record for the highest number in an international. He also struck 11 fours.

If Karl Marx had been able to visit Peter York's retro-fitting workshop, to kit himself out with a few soundbites and a wardrobe of Next suits, his ideology might be flourishing now. Francis Wheen

G2 page 5

Guardian Crossword No 20,617

Set by Orlando

Hidden Anagrams: Each clue is in two parts, which do not overlap. One part provides a definition, the other contains in sequence a mixture of the required letters. Either part may come first. Punctuation should be ignored. For example, 'Bats bedevil mad air force officer' gives the solution ADMIRAL, defined by officer and anagrammed by 'I mad air'.

Across

- 7 Flat and hilly country (8)
- 9 One who delivers speeches to Rotary Clubs (5)
- 10 Bird providing alternative to airline (4)
- 11 Writers with absent brother (3,7)
- 12 English composer? Holst? No, Lewis (8)
- 14 Kingfisher and kestrel and any other bird (8)
- 15 Cast with no written script (5)
- 17 Quest for the scarlet woman (4)
- 20 Recklessly determined to make Little Nell be the heroine (4-4)

Down

- 22 Cast off clothing that is now dirty (5)
- 23 Freight carrier not taking to road system (5,5)
- 24 A one-legged pirate is a forlorn person (4)
- 25 A girl who displays virtuosity (5)
- 26 Bird that reads Huckleberry Finn (8)

Down

- 1 A bird with a nest partly built (5)
- 2 Waterfowl like Shakespeare (4)
- 3 Bird slain by ancient mariner (5)
- 4 Bird that is caged or

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